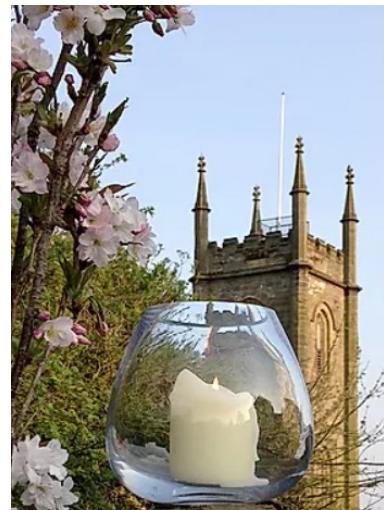


WORSHIP FOR PENTECOST 2020

Lighting of the Candle

https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Pentecost.htm

We light a candle, and enjoy the flickering light,
the fragrance and warmth it creates.
But without the spark that ignites, there will be no flame.
Without the wax, the source of power, the wick will not burn.
Without the flame, there will be no fragrance, no warmth, no light.
And so with us, Lord.
You are the catalyst that ignites us, and the fuel that sustains us.
You fill us with your fragrance as you enter our lives.
You empower us to carry your flame in our hearts,
to be the fragrance, warmth, and light of your love, in this dark world.
Bless us as we come to worship you.



This has been an Easter Season the like of which we have never known. Now we come to Pentecost, when we should be gathering at St Matthew's for a Joint Celebration. Offer to God our frustrations, our anger, our fear, our concerns about our friends, our concerns for the future. Offer them to God - and ask him to grant us Peace.

I will sing with the Spirit, and with the understanding also. Alleluia.

Music John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeul0303AgY>

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.
**Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen! Alleluia!**
Alleluia! Christ risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

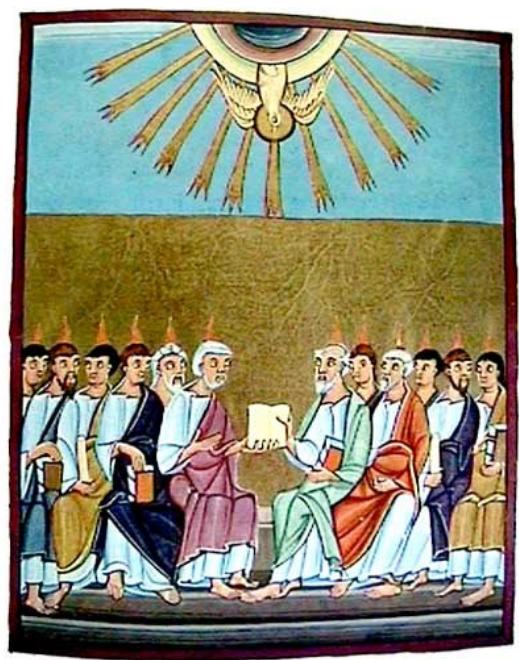
Hymn - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TssHTATafi0> - looks like a "Songs of Praise" hymn

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure:
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine;
Until this earthly part of me
Glowes with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.



Words: Edwin Hatch - CP 174
Music: Carlisle, Charles Lockhart - CP 248

We come together (wherever we are) as the family of God,
believing in God who we experience as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We join together in saying the faith that binds us together:
We believe in God the Father, who made the world.
We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who became human to set us free.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, our helper and guide.
We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed.
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, we ask forgiveness for the times we have done wrong,
and the times we have failed to do right.
Come to us in your love and set our minds on what is good,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our wrongdoings, confirm and strengthen us in all that is good,
and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for Pentecost - this is the shorter version in the Common Worship lectionary

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Say the psalm set for Pentecost - Psalm 104.26-32 - and pray the prayer

O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, spread far and wide, *
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan *
which you have made to play in the deep.
All of these look to you *
to give them their food in due season.
When you give it them, they gather it; *
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
When you hide your face they are troubled; *
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created, *
and you renew the face of the earth.

Creator God, send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world,
that the whole creation, in its groaning and striving,
may know your loving purpose and come to reflect your glory; in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible reading - Acts 2.1-21 - one of the joys of Pentecost is seeing who is down to read this passage, and wondering how they will cope with all the names of the Roman provinces!

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,

in those days I will pour out my Spirit;

and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above

and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Address - our thanks to Clive for producing some thoughts you can read. You can also watch a 5 minute video from me on Ascension and Pentecost which I have produced for Walter Evans School. You can find both of them at <https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/worship-while-our-buildings-are-closed> - scroll down to the bottom of the page.

The Nicene Creed - we affirm our faith, and the faith of the whole church (hence ‘we’ not ‘I’)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yp7vqrmuSE>

Dum complerentur dies Pentecostes,
erant omnes pariter dicentes, alleluia,
et subito factus est sonus de coelo, alleluia,
tamquam spiritus vehementis,
et replevit totam domum, alleluia.

Now when the day of Pentecost had come,
they were gathered all together, saying: alleluia.
And suddenly they heard a great sound from heaven, alleluia,
like a hurricane in its fury,
which encompassed all the dwelling, alleluia.

Words: Acts 2.1-2, music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594

Prayers of Intercession - these are from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin, Ireland. I have amended them slightly. You are welcome to do the same.

Loving and healing God, we turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment. As we seek to pray in the Spirit, we pray for our world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts. We pray for our churches, for Libby our Bishop, for the life of our Deanery and parishes, for all our friends and fellow-worshippers. We pray for those we would have married this weekend - for Blake & Natalie, Seamus & Emily, and David & Karen. We thank you for their love, and ask your blessing upon them. We pray for those with whom we are journeying in this time of lockdown - and we pray for all for whom it is a very difficult time. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Generous God, fill us with compassion and concern for others that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families. Be with all who are afraid, in hospitals - remembering especially John Coltman - residential care, or in their own homes. Many do not have the luxury of nice homes and beautiful gardens. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace. We name before you friends we have lost. Comfort their family and friends, comfort us and all who mourn. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in our medical facilities. Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. We pray in gratitude for all those who have continued to work in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask for wisdom as we seek to restart and rebuild. We pray for those for whom the future is so unclear - in our City we pray especially for those at Rolls Royce, we pray for the businesses and economic life of our parishes. We pray for our schools, especially for Walter Evans, Portway, and St Edmund's Pre-school - we pray for all our young people, and ask your blessing upon them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God of creation and life, we place ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Whitsunday Collect from the Book of Common Prayer

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HPKL1wOVXk>

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illumining.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing:
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.



Words: Bianco da Siena, translated by R.F. Littledale
Music: Down Ampney, R. Vaughan Williams - CP 175

Dismissal prayers - if we had been in church, I would have told you to turn to look out of the open doors, before going into the world. We may not be in a church building, but we still need to be Christ's people in the world

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue - including ours' - may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all, evermore, Amen.

Final organ voluntary - David Redfern (our morning organist at St Edmund's - so he would have had the morning off today since the service was at St Matthew's) has put together a selection of wedding music. For those of you who don't know, David and Karen were getting married this afternoon at St Edmund's. We send them our love. The video is (or will shortly be) at <https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/worship-while-our-buildings-are-closed> - scroll down to the bottom of the page

Do let me know if this was useful - revpeterbarham@btinternet.com - 01332 551404