



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

31 MAY 2020 PENTECOST

WHITSUNDAY

Please join me for our

Service for Pentecost at 10.30am

(or at another convenient time) by following the Order of Service and singing in your own home.

I will be thinking of you all and praying for you at The Rectory at the same time and longing for our future reunion in Church.



Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Frances

Duty Warden: John Kerr

Server: Henry Sawyerr

Musician: Paul Waton

Sidespersons: Sylvia Cowling, Jenny Gillbe

Welcomers: Richard West, Diane Young

Sound desk: Jules Kieswich

Refreshments: Margaret Ager, Doreen Kennett

Daniel & Marvellous David gave me some wonderful pictures just before lockdown.

Here is their Pentecost picture. Thank you Daniel & Marvellous!



St. Nicholas, Sutton
Worship on Pentecost Sunday
at 10.30am on 31 May 2020
led by Revd Frances Arnold, Priest-in-Charge

The Gathering

The Greeting

President

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen:
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hymn Jesus is Lord!

Prayer of Preparation

We sit or kneel

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2.9,10

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

President

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God is said or sung

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

President says 'Let us pray'.

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your 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 is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

First reading Acts of the Apostles 2.1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

read by Julie Barbour

Second reading 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13

One Body with Many Members

read by Julie

At the end the reader says
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Lord, the light of your love

Gospel Reading John 7.37-39

Rivers of Living Water

read by Jean Chappell

The reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *The Revd Frances Arnold*

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water (John 7.38)

In the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit comes like tongues of fire and the rush of a violent wind: all the disciples speak at once about God's deeds of power. In John's gospel, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in a different way. He says the Spirit is like rivers and flowing water. The Spirit will flow out of a believer's heart like rivers of *living* water.

I got some idea of what is meant by living water when, as a newly qualified teacher, I went to live for a time with a family in Russia in order to study their education system. The one thing that everyone had told me to pack was a 'universal (sink) plug.' This was a brown rubber disc which, it was claimed, would fit any size plug hole anywhere in the world. Nobody told me why there were no plugs in Russia. But it soon became clear to me that the family wanted me only to use running water. It wasn't the case that they were short of plugs, as I had come to imagine! Grandma told me to let the water run freely from the tap – like water in a river. This running water was water that was fresh and clean. She compared it favourably to water that was left in a bath, a bucket or a bowl – stagnant water. So I soon got into the habit of taking a shower rather than a bath and of washing dishes under a running tap. Needless to say, drinking water came out of a tap, rather than a bottle.

People in the time of Jesus would say *living* water where we say running water. Living water was the normal way of describing water in a stream or a river: water that was more likely to be fresh and clean than water that had been standing in a pool or well.

This image of *moving* water can help us to understand what Jesus says about the Spirit. When the Spirit dwells within you, it is like being filled to overflowing with life-giving, clean water that washes away all that is tired and stale, all that in your life and heart makes the message of God difficult to hear. Like the love and saving message of Jesus, the Spirit

cannot be contained. For that reason it is like a river, rather than a pool - a torrent, rather than a well. The water that Jesus is offering will quench your thirst and keep on flowing so that you will never be thirsty again. It will become a spring bubbling up inside you, refreshing you with new life.

At Pentecost the disciples experienced the power of the Spirit flooding their beings in a new way. They shared the good news of salvation. Peter took a passage of scripture with which the crowd would have been familiar: in this case a prophecy by Joel (2.28) about what will happen after a great catastrophe, a plague of locusts. He uses it to explain the meaning of what has happened (it is a spiritual occurrence) and will go on to explain the meaning of what happened in the apparent catastrophe of the crucifixion. The mixed crowd in Jerusalem heard the word in a way that struck straight home to their hearts and that each of them could understand.

St John helps us to understand where that extraordinary power came from. The Spirit could only come upon all disciples after Jesus was glorified. In John's gospel, glory always means the Cross. Jesus, the Lamb of God who gave himself for the sins of the world, released new life on the Cross. He is the true Spirit giver. But first he had to breathe the spirit upon the apostles at Easter, and then ascend into heaven, before the Spirit could be poured out, as the prophet Joel had said 'upon all flesh,' that is to say, everyone.

As we come to the end of the Easter season and enter into the joy of Pentecost, John reminds us that it is through the cross on which the Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world, that our hearts are cleansed with living water and opened up to use our gifts for the common good.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and we were all made to drink of one Spirit
(1 Corinthians 12.13) **Amen.**

The Creed

We stand

Let us declare our faith in God.
We believe in God the Father,
**from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

We believe in God the Son,
**who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
**who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you promised through your Son Jesus Christ
to hear us when we pray in faith.

Strengthen *Christopher & Jonathan* our bishops and all your Church in the service of
Christ,
that those who confess your name may be united in your truth,
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Bless and guide *Elizabeth our Queen*; give wisdom to all in authority;
and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace;
that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.
Lord, in your mercy...

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours,
that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.
Lord, in your mercy...

*We hold in prayer all those affected by the Coronavirus and especially our chaplains,
volunteers and NHS staff and carers, nursing and medical staff...*
Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit...;
give them courage and hope in their troubles;
and bring them the joy of your salvation.
Lord, in your mercy...

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ...;
according to your promises,
grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.
Lord, in your mercy...

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nicholas and all your saints,
we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

President

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

cf 2 Corinthians 1.22

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants, give you most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we show forth your praise,
not only with our lips but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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.**

Blessing

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**