

**REGATHERING  
THE BODY OF CHRIST**



**PENTECOST SUNDAY  
MAY 31, 2020  
PARISH OF ST ANDREW, EPSOM**



# A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

AS WE GATHER FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVING STAYED HOME  
TO SAVE LIVES DURING THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

LITURGICAL LEADER: *The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross*

READER AND INTERCESSOR: *Graeme MacCormick*

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## ORGAN PRELUDE

*Stephen Hamilton*

Hymn prelude on 'Veni, Creator Spiritus' *N. Rawsthorne*

## REGATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Since last we gathered here,  
we have journeyed through the sacred narrative of Holy Week.  
Sunday's palm parade led to Friday's crucifixion.  
*A cross and purple cloth placed on the altar*

Since last we gathered here,  
we heard how Jesus' body was taken from the cross,  
wrapped in linen and laid in a tomb.  
*The purple cloth is laid beside the cross*

Since last we gathered here,  
we discovered the tomb was empty,  
and encountered Christ, the world's true light.  
*The paschal candle is lit*

Since last we gathered here,  
we have heard the stories of the risen Christ with his disciples,  
recognised in the breaking of the bread.  
*The chalice and paten are placed on the altar*

Since last we gathered here,  
we have heard passages from Scripture  
reassuring us of God's presence with us.

*The bible is placed on the altar.*

Since last we gathered here,  
we have heard the story of Christ's Ascension  
and his promise that an advocate would be sent by the Father.

*A red burse is placed on the altar*

Since last we gathered here,  
the world has changed, and we have changed.

We have experienced the grief of loss.  
We have known fear and anxiety.

We have discovered grace in unexpected places  
and learned new things about ourselves.

We light these candles as a reminder  
that though we are changed,  
God remains faithful.

*The altar candles are lit.*

"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit  
which has been given to us."

*Romans 5:5*

E te whānau a te Karaiti, welcome home.

## INVOCATION

Be with us, Spirit of God;  
**nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God;  
**fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;  
**bring strength, healing, and peace.**

## THE PREPARATION

Let us praise and worship God who has called us together.  
Let us celebrate God's majesty,  
and delight in the wonder of God's love.

Together we shall confess our sins  
and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read,  
we can allow God's word to speak to us,  
and ponder its meaning for our lives.

In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness,  
we pray for others as well as for ourselves,  
and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.

All this we do,  
because we believe in the presence among us  
of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

## **READING: ACTS 2: 1-13**

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.'

*Silence*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO**

*Sophie Lamb*

*If Thou be Near (Best du bei mir)* Music: J S Bach

Accompanist: Neil Shroff

## FORGIVENESS

The Spirit of God breathes life into the whole world.

Let us open ourselves to God and remember our need for God's forgiveness.

As we wait in silence,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

Let us confess our sin

**Almighty and merciful God,**

**we have sinned against you,**

**in thought, word and deed,**

**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with all our heart;**

**We have not loved our neighbours as you love us.**

**We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.**

**Forgives us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,**

**and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

God the Creator brings you new life,  
forgives and redeems you.  
Take hold of this forgiveness  
and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus. **Amen.**

## SONG OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*by James K. Baxter*

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks,  
**Inside and outside the fences,**  
**You blow where you wish to blow.**

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the sun who shines on the little plant,  
**You warm him gently, you give him life,**  
**You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves.**

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the mother eagle with her young,  
**Holding them in peace under your feathers.**

On the highest mountain you have built your nest,  
**Above the valley, above the storms of the world,**  
**Where no hunter ever comes.**

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,  
**In whom we know already that the battle has been won.**

You bring us to our Brother Jesus  
**To rest our heads upon his shoulder.**

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn,  
**Consuming us with flames of love and peace,**



**Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.**

Lord, Holy Spirit,

In the love of friends you are building a new house,

**Heaven is with us when you are with us.**

You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor

**Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the Father.**

**READING: JOHN 7: 37-39**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." ' Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

*Silence*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HOMILY**

**REFLECTIVE MUSIC**

*Susan Gaddis*

*2nd Movt. Piano Concert in C Major K467 "Elvira Madigan"*

Music; W A Mozart

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.**

**You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you.**

**You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.**

**You are with us now.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

#### **INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVING**

Let us open our hearts in communal prayer to the Lord.

We pray for the world:

We pray that as you watch over your world, O Lord, you support and comfort all in need or suffering wherever they may be and whatever the nature of their distress. We pray particularly for refugees; those suffering from hunger and malnutrition; those suffering from natural disasters, particularly in Bangladesh and India; those with disabilities; those subject to domestic violence, its perpetrators and other prisoners; for all those still stricken with Covid-19 or other serious illness; and for those who have lost employment, many after long years of service, as a result of this pandemic.

This we ask in Jesus' name:

**Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of all nations that they may lead with wisdom, humility and courage.

This we ask in Jesus' name:

**Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for your Church and its mission in the world:

We pray that your Church may increasingly fulfil its mission of love, compassion and inclusivity in the world and that we, as members of your Church, may each do our utmost to fulfil our part in that mission, enabled by the grace and power of your Holy Spirit.

This we ask in Jesus' name:

**Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for our community here at St. Andrews:

We pray that together we may be a welcoming community with love, joy and thanksgiving in our hearts. We pray particularly for our young people, for Aimee who guides them and for the development of the Space programme for young parents and babies, to be introduced as an additional community outreach.

This we ask in Jesus' name:

**Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have died and for those who mourn:

We pray particularly for those who have lost loved ones during this time of restricted gathering and have been unable to be with them in their dying; and those unable to farewell loved ones in the way they would have wished.

This we ask in Jesus' name:

**Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves:

That we may be filled with your grace and Spirit; and that we may nurture them within us.

This we ask in Jesus' name:

**Lord hear our prayer**

We give thanks:

For the beauty of these islands and the increased realisation of the benefits of restoring and preserving their peace, majesty and diversity.

We give thanks for those who have guided us through these days of pandemic and particularly for all those essential workers who put their own lives at risk.

We give thanks for community and families, including our family here at St. Andrews, and for today's ability to gather together again in person.

For all our blessings:

**We give thanks, O Lord.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As Christ teaches us, we 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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

## A COLLECT FOR PENTECOST

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives  
to bring Christ to the world.

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.**

## A MORNING COLLECT

Holy and everliving God, by your power we are created  
and by your love we are redeemed;  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to your service,  
and live each day in love to one another and to you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SOLO

*Sophie Lamb*

Solo by Sophie Lamb; *O Holy Spirit, filled our hearts*  
Music; Dom Andrew Moore. Accompanist; Neil Shroff

## THE BLESSING OF LIGHT

Blessed are you, God of all creation, overflowing in love.  
with Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.

Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.

Strong and weak, women and men, tell out your word;  
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.

With the new wine of the Spirit  
they proclaim your reign of love.

Amid the birth pangs of the new creation  
the way of light is made known.

Source of freedom, giver of life,  
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### THE COMMISSIONING

For fifty days, in our various places, we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us. Gathered once more today as God's church in the Parish of St Andrew, Epsom, God invites us to live out what we proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

**By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

**We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

**We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

**We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

**We will.**

*The Paschal Candle is extinguished.*

## THE DISMISSAL

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created, breathe into you the breath of life. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who sends forth rivers of living water from the believer's heart, give you joy in proclaiming God's love to the world. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**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.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Stephen Hamilton*

Chorale prelude on 'Komm, Gott, Schöpfer, heiler Geist'  
'Veni, Creator Spiritus' *Bach*

*During which the altar candles are extinguished.*