

## PENTECOST Letter Worship and Link to video version

Dear friends

Today, as I'm sure you know is Pentecost, or Whitsunday. It is the day we remember and celebrate the day on which God poured out the Holy Spirit on the disciples when they were all gathered in one place. Well, we can't gather in one place on Pentecost this year, but we can be confident that the same Holy Spirit can come upon us and fill us with the same power to do God's work. I'm including here the link to our worship and reflection for Pentecost Sunday. As you will see, it's no longer just Revd Carole and myself appearing in the video - many thanks to Ruth, Pru, Peter, David and Hilarie for also recording contributions. I hope that this will be the pattern for our online worship from now on; it will be lovely for us all to see and hear friends from across the churches taking part in our services, so if you have the facility to take videos on your phone, tablet or computer and would be happy to read a Bible reading for example, do please let me know. And I'm happy to give any guidance if needed.

<https://youtu.be/FxKxy1OEjo>



### Worship and Reflection for Pentecost Sunday

A Service with reflection for  
Pentecost from the Kingsbury and  
Baxterley Group of Parishes

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/FxKxy1OEjo)

I've also been very pleased to have seen and chatted with some of you through our Zoom coffee and catch up sessions, of which we have now had two. This will be continuing, and if you've not yet tried it do please give it a go. We shall be meeting this week on Thursday 4th June at 10.30am, and this is the ID and password to join:

Meeting ID: 319 891 1457

Password: Kings1

As well as a general chance to chat and catch up, this week we'll have another question to focus on, which is "What have you been missing during lockdown? What do you not miss?"

The success of using Zoom in that way has encouraged us to begin using it for some prayer and worship as well. I'm grateful to Carole for her leading of Night Prayer (Compline) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings on facebook - that will continue, but now Tuesday evening will also be a chance to share together in Night Prayer through Zoom. This will be at 8pm and the ID is 567 717 8538, password 3bjpmG.

Along with trying to make good use of the technology available to some of us, I am very conscious that for many of our number that is not possible, and I am particularly concerned to keep connected with those who are not able to receive emails or access facebook or the website. It would be nice to be able to post things out more frequently, but while that isn't possible I did include the written reflections for today and next week (Trinity Sunday) amongst the materials in the letter I sent with the prayer booklets where I didn't have an email address for anyone on the electoral roll. I intend to send a postal mailing on a monthly basis to these people. On which subject, thank you to those who have already responded to the last letter and the note about finances. It is very much appreciated.

Thanks as well for your prayers for those who have been bereaved during this time. This week, I shall be conducting the funeral of Stephen Hudson on Tuesday at 12 noon, at the graveside in Hurley. We are still in the position where no services can be held in church, including weddings and funerals. We are expecting further guidance shortly as to how and when we may be able to move towards re-opening for at least certain services, but I am not expecting any major changes in the near future. So in the meantime let us continue with our prayers, work and worship in our different places, knowing that we are united in the same love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God bless

John

Revd Dr John White  
Priest in Charge of Kingsbury, Baxterley with Hurley and Wood End and Merevale with Bentley  
The Vicarage, Church Lane, Kingsbury, Tamworth B78 2LR  
01827 874252

## ***Worship for Pentecost Sunday***

***Introduction*** *John*)

***Greeting and Opening Responses*** *(Carole)*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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 empowering,,  
**fill us with your Spirit.**

***The Collect*** *(Carole)*

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.

***First Reading: Acts 2.1-21*** *(Peter, Pru and David)*

***Gospel Reading: John 20.19-23*** *(Ruth)*

***Reflection*** *(John)*

## **A Reflection for Pentecost Sunday from Revd John**

When the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost, we are told that it came with "a sound like the rush of a violent wind". This is just one of a number of places in the Bible where the movement and work of God's Spirit is compared to the wind. In John's Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3.8). In the very first book of the Bible, we are told that at the beginning of creation "a wind from God swept over the waters." (Genesis 1.2). There is a big overlap between the words that are used for "wind", "breath" and "spirit". All speak of something that is God-given and beyond our control.

We experience the blowing of the wind in various and distinctly different ways, from a refreshing, gentle breeze to a terrifying gale. The movement of God's Spirit can feel at times like something welcome, bringing renewal, but also at times as something dangerous and disturbing. The Spirit can take us where we would rather not go. The Spirit can revive us where we are. What it rarely ever does is to leave us unchanged and unmoved.

I am no sailor, and it is perhaps those who have experience of handling a yacht in open waters who can testify most fully to the contrasting aspects of wind. When the storm blows up, the power of the wind is rightly something to be feared; without skilful and urgent action, the vessel may capsize or be driven onto rocks. But I have heard it said that for sailors on a long-distance voyage, on a boat without its own motor, what is feared most is not the wind but the absence of wind. There is a dread of the doldrums around the equator; those days and weeks when there is not a breath of wind to catch the sails and the boat is left marooned and (quite literally) powerless.

There can be times in life when the wind around is raging so hard that we feel we have no choice but to batten down the hatches and ride out the storm. But that can only ever be a temporary measure. There also comes a time when we need to open up and allow the wind to fill the sails and move us forward. The days after the ascension of Jesus were days of inactivity, as the disciples waited in Jerusalem in obedience to Jesus' words. But with Pentecost the time of waiting is over; from now on, the wind of the Spirit will drive the disciples onwards and outwards with the good news of the risen Christ. The mission of the church begins in earnest, as empowered by God the followers of Jesus speak and serve in his name, and the kingdom grows.

How have these weeks of lockdown felt to you? Like a storm to be weathered? Or perhaps like the doldrums, a period of enforced inactivity during which we can go nowhere and do nothing? If so, that does not make them wasted weeks, but

quite possibly times of being made ready for challenges to come. It is not at all clear quite how or when there will be a full lifting of the restrictions on what we can do and where and how we can meet. For some things, we can only wait and see, and as many have said, there will not be and should not be a simple "return to normal", a going back to everything the way it was. I pray that this may have been a time of reflection and re-evaluation, enabling us to be more ready to discern where the wind of the Spirit is blowing, and to catch that wind in our sails, and to go with boldness wherever God leads.

***Affirmation of Faith (John)***

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth are 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 (Hilarie)***

***The Lord's Prayer (John)***

***Blessing of Light (John)***

Blessed are you, sovereign God, 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.**

***Conclusion (Carole)***

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.**

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia**