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**Broomhill Hyndland  
Parish Church**

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“Lighting the Way”

for **Sunday 23 May 2021**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another service. Today is Pentecost Sunday, sometimes recognised as the birth of the Church. As you will remember, last year we were planning our big Pentecost in the Park Event—'2020 Vision' and to celebrate this momentous occasion in the Church but it was not to be. Here we are, a year later, and Pentecost has come round again and boy, how things have changed.

We continue to make steps in the right direction. Last Sunday was the first Sunday for a long time that we had fellowship with a cup of tea! Served in the Sanctuary, silver-service style, the congregation remained seated and the time of fellowship that we all enjoyed so much in the large hall was re-enacted in a small but significant way.

As intimated over the past few Sundays, and to be found in the forthcoming Newsletter, the Kirk Session approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday in June. BYOB normally means something different when invited out but in this occasion means Bring Your Own Bread. Whilst not the way we would want to break bread and remember, it brings us closer under the current restrictions.

This Wednesday coming, the 26th, WD40 meet for worship in the Kingsborough Sanctuary - and tea will be served there too!!

Julie Campbell has completed her second placement and is marching onward and upward through her University course. Well done Julie!! She has one more placement and a year to do and then will be let loose in the world! Julie hopes to be back with us, at the very least at WD40, so look out for her.

It's Pentecost - and change is all around. For Julie every day there is something new in son Ben, now three. Where has the time gone? For all of us time rolls on and the Holy Spirit doesn't waste a moment.

Neither should we!

Every Blessing, George

***Bookings for 30 May are open next Friday from 10am until 3pm.  
Telephone 07851 591 503. More seats available each week, Please come!***

**Sunday 23 May— Pentecost (Year B)**

For those who like to follow all the lectionary readings for the Sunday and dip into the Old Testament and Epistles, the readings for this Sunday are: John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15; Daniel 7: 9-14; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; Romans 8: 22-27; Acts 2: 1-13, additional reading for today (John 17 : 11-23).

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 594 Come, Holy Spirit, come!; 593 She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters; 722 Spirit of God, come dwell within me; 595 O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us.

You'll find in the Zoom services the words on the screen – in the safety of your own home, sing along!

Our Sunday reflection will be based on Acts 2 but please read and ponder the suggested Scripture and see how it connects and what it says to you.

**Rest in His arms ..... read, reflect, rejoice...**

### **CALL**

In a world dry and thirsty: Living Water flows;  
In a world fainting and breathless: Divine Wind blows;  
In a world cold and dark: Spirit's Flame glows;  
Spirit has always been here, and we open our awareness  
to perceive her and receive her.  
Spirit is here! We give thanks and celebrate!

### **PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, life is a mystery –  
far too deep for us to fathom,  
too large for us to grasp and really understand.  
And our faith, similarly, God of imagination and wonder,  
leaves questions unanswered, doubts real, fears for the future tangible.  
Give us a spark, a word, a breeze, to ignite us this day, Poet of Pentecost.  
We are just ordinary people,  
seeking to make each day something special and hoping that in some way  
our lives might have meaning, might count.  
And so we recognise that we need so much.  
We need wisdom and strength.  
We need compassion and courage.  
And we turn to you as the source of what we need.

What a surprise it is to discover that you are with us, within us!  
In Jesus, you have stepped into our world.  
By your Spirit, you have stepped into our hearts.  
How often we have missed this hidden treasure inside us.  
Yes, we are just ordinary people, but we are your image,  
and we are filled with your Presence.  
Forgive us for our blindness, and for our neglect of the gift of yourself  
with which you have so generously blessed us.  
You are doing new things.  
Forgive us, when we close the window to the freshness of new ideas,  
against the winds of change.  
Forgive us, our insular thoughts and lives,  
shut away in locked homes and shuttered churches.  
Open our lives, let your Spirit blow through.  
stir our hearts to change, pour out the fire of love upon us.

(The Lord's Prayer - together we say...)

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever. AMEN



Let us turn to God's Word, found in Acts 2: 1-13  
'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'  
And now a hymn. Choose one from our opening page...

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Holy One, for all the ways you speak to us – in rushing wind, dancing flames, in words we understand, and in all that transcends language, we give thanks. Give us courage to speak your love, everywhere we go, to everyone we meet. AMEN

### **REFLECTION**

The Eurovision Song Contest is back on Saturday – does Great Britain score their usual, 'nil points'?

What has been your favourite UK entry? 'Save your kisses for me?' by Brotherhood of Man; 'Puppet on a String' sung by Sandi Shaw; 'Making your Mind Up,' by Bucks Fizz; 'Beg, Steal, or Borrow' by the New Seekers?

'I'd like to teach the world to sing' is another of the New Seekers' songs, famous in a Coke advert.

I would love to sing again!!

Don't you just miss the singing?

Last Sunday evening on Zoom we were discussing 'Looking upward every day, sunshine on our faces,' one of the hymns that we chose for Ascension Sunday. The tune we were expecting, we discovered, was not from CH3 but actually from CH2!!

Then there was 'Shine, Jesus shine' that disturbed my neighbours – such was the volume I sang from the Manse!

We miss singing – it lifts our spirits, it touches the soul, it is participation in the Sunday service, which keeps the tunes in our head the rest of the day.

But what about 'singing from the same hymn sheet'?

It's a phrase that suggests 'agreement, harmony and union.'

I think back to Jesus' words, his instructions to his disciples and his wish and prayer, that 'they be one.' Here we are, at Pentecost, and in the re-reading of the story in Acts, I have been challenged to think about it in a different way. Luke writes in verse 1: 'When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in the one place.' (Acts 2:1).

When we think of 'all together', we imagine these disciples, physically gathered in the Upper Room, as they had been encouraged to do by Jesus before his Ascension and wait for the Holy Spirit to come. This is correct, and awaiting this momentous and life-changing occasion, they even got down to finding a replacement for Judas, to make the number of disciples back up to 12.

But I wonder...

I wonder if 'together in the one place' suggests that they were not only together bodily but were of one mind and were ready to 'sing from the same hymn sheet'?

I wonder if they were, as Jesus had hoped, 'one', as they faced those gathered for the Spring Harvest? For us as a congregation, over the past two years, we have not been physically together. We had planned and prepared for an event outside in Naseby Park to do what the disciples did and share the story but we know what happened.

Likewise on one of the great festivals of the Church, we are still not physically together as we should be, though progress is being made and that won't deter the work of the Holy Spirit in any way or form. You could rightly argue, that through this pandemic, the Holy Spirit has found new ways of togetherness, ways we might not have imagined.

The story of Pentecost is a very vivid and highly coloured one. It's full of strong and striking images – the rush of a violent wind, divided tongues as of fire and some 120 people waiting in one place together - not dissimilar to the total number of us here today and tonight actually, speaking in other languages.

And then the scene changes from the domestic setting of the inner groups, as it were, to the outside space where the huge throng gathered: the shift from the coming of the Spirit on the apostles to the effect that it would have on the world outside the confines of those four walls.

The effect it needs to have on us as we go out from here today.

The effect on the church.

For here is the message that the Spirit is about communication – about hearing and listening as well as speaking and the crowd outside, a learning experience for us all.

But then, let us return to 'hymn-sheets' and the singing from them.

As I mentioned last Sunday, the Church is changing. In Glasgow, posts are being reduced, probably linkages and unions will increase.

Now this may not a bad thing.

As we know, the Spirit found ways of worshipping over the past 18 months (text, Zoom, Reflections by email) – so why can we not accept, in all faith, since we are nomads, journeymen and women, that buildings closing, worship at different times of the week, other people leading besides a 'minister', is also the work of the Holy Spirit?

In conversation with a colleague last week, we both agreed that the Church works too slowly – for a variety of reasons: congregations want to stay where they are, and as they are, and yet that is not what happens at Pentecost.

That slowness, it seems to me, comes because, we 'don't sing from the same hymn sheet', we are 'not together in the one place.' Congregations, other Presbyteries in Scotland and other Kirks in Glasgow, for the most part, want to hold

on, even though they continue to diminish, even although it is not to the benefit of the whole - the Church is anything but 'together' and certainly not 'singing from the same hymn sheet'.

The German artist Paul Klee, in 1939, tried to capture an extraordinary tragic moment in history. His disturbing painting shows the face of an angel facing outwards, towards the future, but in fact being blown backwards by the impossibly strong wind. In his mind, the force of the wind, gathered darkly around the angel, was created by the mess of history – the losses and catastrophes, the wars and terrors.

The picture is a dreadful image of despair and loss which named what was to come in the next six years in a very prophetic way. And, of course, as we know in the world's history since that war and in what is happening at this very moment – in Darfur, in Iraq, in the Lebanon and Palestine, in refugee camps, in places where children are dying of treatable disease – these things continue.

But today we hear the story of a different powerful wind, a divine wind, which gathers the disciples, still tempted to turn their faces towards the past, but which blows them into a future they couldn't really contemplate. Jesus said I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. He prays for the Spirit and that they may be 'one' and perhaps the strength of these early disciples was, that though they face internal differences which Paul records, the fundamentals remained the same, to recognise Christ is Lord.

In many ways, all the rest was, and is, irrelevant, if it takes us off of our mission and stops us singing loud and clear and 'from the same hymn sheet'. The Spirit came at the beginning of creation and from chaos brought order. Here, for us, in amongst the chaos, the fears of a Church as we know it changing beyond we could ever imagine and churches and congregations digging in their heels, comes that Spirit again, blowing where she wills.

We have forgotten that we cannot build a church without the Spirit – a Church that prays, struggles, suffers, celebrates with all of God's people and sings, yes sings, 'from the same hymn sheet.'

'I'd like to teach the Church to sing, in perfect harmony.'

Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit AMEN

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of wind and fire, we come this morning,  
grateful that your involvement with the church didn't end at the cross  
and didn't end with the tomb  
but that you poured out your Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost  
and that you have done so every day since.

As we bring our offering to you this day, set us on fire once again.  
Help us to open the sails of our lives to the mighty movement of your Spirit  
that it might send us from this place into a hurting and disconnected world.  
Fill us with your power in Christ we pray. AMEN

### **PRAYER POINTS**

The death of Helen Munro; Razvan and his family; the General Assembly;  
COVID; Israel and Palestine; Hyderabad in India, the Presbytery's Twinning.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

We praise you, O God, for your wonderful gift of yourself.  
Spirit of the Living God, from Holy Wisdom brooding on the waters of creation  
to the Spirit with us now and enabling us to worship,  
you have been gently and powerfully at work in our history.  
We praise you, O God, for your wonderful gift of yourself.

Spirit of the Living God, breathing life into all that lives and loves,  
inspiring work and choices, guiding and moulding,  
you are still gently and powerfully at work in the world.

We praise you, O God, for your wonderful gift of yourself.

Spirit of the Living God, from knitting us together in our mother's wombs  
to embracing us while we draw our last breaths,  
you are gently and powerfully at work in our lives.

We praise you, O God, for your wonderful gift of yourself.  
Spirit of the Living God we ask for your holding particular those we name now in  
our hearts... we ask your comfort for those who mourn...

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us, renew us,  
open our eyes to the needful tasks and our own abilities to fulfil the work.  
Enable us to be identified as God's people by our love and joy,  
our peace and patience, our kindness and generosity,  
our faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
May we shine as lights in the world to the glory of God.  
We praise you, O God, for your wonderful gift of yourself. AMEN

## **SENDING HYMN**

### **BENEDICTION**

As you go forth from this place,  
may the wind of the Spirit startle your senses and blow through your life;  
may the fire of the Spirit scorch your complacency and light your way.

And may the blessing of the Holy One —  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer —  
rest with you now and forever more. AMEN

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