



**Church at Home 12
for Abridge
Sunday 31st May 2020
Pentecost**



*Jesus breathed on them and said,
'Receive the Holy Spirit'.
John 20:22*

50 days after the Passover the Jews celebrate the harvest festival of Shavuot. It is also the time they remember how Moses received the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai. This was the moment that The Holy Spirit came to clothe the disciples with power from on high. The Spirit came to write God's laws on their hearts and produce the harvest of God's character in their lives.

It's now 50 days since Easter Day and this is our 12th edition of church-at-home! We hope that these weekly worship resource sheets have been a blessing and a support to you. This time of isolation and lock-down has been hard and trying for all of us. Today's Pentecost focus is an opportunity to seek renewed strength and grace to keep going through the gift of The Holy Spirit – God's power at work in us because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Today's Bible readings are: **Acts 2:1-21** (The events of the day of Pentecost), **Psalm 104: 24-35** (*You created everything by your Spirit and give new life to the earth*), **1 Corinthians 12:3-13** (*The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others*) and **John 20:19-23** (Jesus first words to all the disciples after his resurrection).

Let's use the words of the following ancient prayer for the Holy Spirit, as we share worship together today. You can hear it sung [here](#)

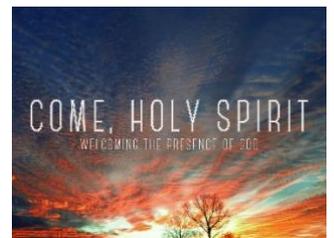
Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts* impart.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far from foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:



(*see Isaiah 11:2-3)

The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us
Pause

Come, Holy Spirit, come.....blow through us with the breath of God to make us clean
Come, Holy Spirit, come.....burn in us with the fire of God to make us pure
Come, Holy Spirit, come.....blossom from us with the praise of God to make us whole

Pause

Some **suggested hymns and songs** for today:

[Breathe on me breath of God](#); [Come down, O love divine](#) ; [Love divine, all loves excelling](#)

Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost celebrates the birthday of the church. The day when Jesus fulfilled his promise of sending his followers the Spirit of God to be with them and in them. This coming of God as the Holy Spirit was marked by the sounds and signs of God's power - a power which enabled them to carry out the task of taking the good news to the ends of the earth. God's Spirit still empowers Christians today to share and show the love of God and bring people into the kingdom. This promise is for young and old, men and women **and** 'for your children'. All that Jesus was and all that Jesus has said and done can now be experienced personally by anyone, anywhere, because the Spirit of Jesus - the Holy Spirit of God - can fill all who turn to him. It is important that we recognise that this Spirit is a person and not some strange impersonal force. It is Jesus back with the disciples and us in an invisible form to enable us to play our part in the salvation of the world. As you read the Bible passage slowly, pausing between verses, ask yourself:

I wonder which part of the story most catches my attention?

I wonder which part puzzles me?

I wonder which is the most important part of this story?

I wonder which part is especially for me this morning?

I wonder how this story might connect to what is happening in our world today?

To help you explore the story further, there is a **reflection sheet** and also some **all-age activities**, that you might like to use, if you have access to the internet. You can find these resources on the websites of the two churches and here are the links: www.lambournechurch.com www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org

For our prayers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, let us remember:

- The government and its advisors as they plan how the lockdown should be eased
- Every family and individual who has lost someone they love to this virus.
- All key workers who continue to put themselves at risk to save lives. You may know of some by name for whom you can pray.
- Those who are still being treated in hospital this very day
- Those known to us overseas who are facing all this, perhaps with fewer resources

Add any particular people and situations that The Lord brings to your mind as you have been praying. End with **the Collect** below, followed by our family prayer, **The Lord's Prayer**.

God our Father, you fulfilled Jesus' promise
by sending your Holy Spirit on his disciples,
and empowering people of every nation through the centuries.
Enlighten us by the power of that Spirit so that
we may speak your praise and tell others of your saving work.
We make our prayer through you Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ

End your time of church-at-home by saying out loud the words of **The Grace**, reaching out your hands to include in your imagination all those you know and love, who live here in the village.

Final hymn suggestions: [Gracious Spirit Holy Ghost](#), [Colours of Day](#)



Please pray for: wise decisions about reopening churches and the Lambourne assemblies taking place on zoom on Mondays at 10.00

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