



The love of God has  
been poured into our  
hearts through the Holy  
Spirit who has been  
given to us (Alleluia!)

Romans Chapter 5:5

### **Acts Chapter 2 v 1 – 21**

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.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” *NRSV*

### **Meditation**

There is a phrase "God has no grandchildren." It means that our faith is about something which happened long ago and which is passed down the generations. It is true that we all pass on to our children our best understanding of what our faith is about, but ultimately it is down to each one of us to know **afresh** what it means to be born of God. Each generation is to come to know the presence of the same Holy Spirit which empowered those first disciples. We are all God's children.

This is important, for as Jesus came to those first disciples and forgave their weaknesses and failures, so we must know afresh that we have a saviour who does not accuse us or remember our betrayals. As we meet with the risen Christ, so we too hear those beautiful words, "Peace be with you." The past, with all its regrets and missteps, has been forgiven. We are set at peace with God and one another. We are recreated, new creatures, through the Word of God. Where once there was sin, compromise, half-hearted discipleship, cowardice and blindness, now there is forgiveness and a chance to begin again.

We are called now to live a new life, strengthened by a transforming Spirit. We need to be recreated. And that is what Jesus does, he breathes his Spirit upon us so that we too can practice forgiveness and reconciliation in our conflicted and divided world.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Almighty God, we your children pray: let your glory come down.

Let the Fire fall as on that first Day of Pentecost.

Revive our spirits, fill us with new excitement,  
with joy unspeakable and faith for a dying world.

Empower us to speak your Word; to utter the words of Life;  
using a variety of languages to bring the good news to the poor.

LORD, let your fire fall once again on this church, on this community,  
on this country, and to the ends of the earth.

In Jesus name and in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.