



# Praying Together



*Pentecost, Number eight*

*May 2020*

Dear Friends,

*The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.*

We talked last week of Jesus finishing his earthly ministry and returning to his father in heaven. This Sunday is Pentecost where we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. This is just the beginning for the disciples and followers of Christ. Jesus had said he would not leave them comfortless, and in The Book of Acts, Jesus tells them he will be sending the Holy Spirit to them. Jesus is comforting his disciples in the knowledge that, even though he will not be with them in person, he will be sending the Spirit as an Advocate (helper). (John 14: 26).

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1: 8)*

The coming of the Holy Spirit was a dramatic happening according to the Biblical account;

*“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 the ability”. (Acts 2: 1-4)*

Through the gift of the Spirit these few men spread the Good News of the Christian faith. The Spirit is still with the people as they do his work on earth. The Spirit works through those who are willing and answer the call to continue the work which the early disciples and followers started two thousand years ago.

## **From the Bible: Ezekiel 36: 24-26, 28b**

*“I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries.  
I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.  
And a new heart I will give you, and put a new spirit within you,  
And I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.  
You shall be my people, and I will be your God.”*

## Let Us Pray

Come Holy Spirit....

Generous God, we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

Lord, come to bless us and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,  
given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,  
and upon the disciples in the upper room:

in your mercy fill us with your spirit,

hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy forever.

**Amen**

*(from the Liturgy)*

I am reminded of this lovely hymn, it may be a while before we can sing together and I have run out of space to write all the verses, but I'm sure you know it well.

*Breath on me breath of God, fill me with life anew,*

*That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*

(Text Edwin Hatch 1835-1889 Music Charles Lockhart 1745-1815)

*Ali, on behalf of St Michael's Church, Marbury.*