

Worship at Home service
Sunday 24th May 2026 Pentecost with
Revd Ian Forsyth

Call to worship:

We are different but united in our commitment to Jesus. Let us stand together, using the gifts he has given us. Let us worship him and receive his commands, responding to his call and being a blessing to others. **Amen.**

StF 364 - O for a thousand tongues to sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through' all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free.
his blood can make the foulest clean.
his blood availed for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFJvBwgmK_c

Bible readings

Psalm 104.24-34,35b; Acts 2.1-21.

Reflection:

Acts 2: 1-21 describes the Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples as wind and fire, enabling them to speak in foreign tongues and marking the birth of the church.

Acts 2: 1-2 -The Promise. Pentecost came when people were all gathered, the day of Pentecost was 50 days after Passover and Pentecost came when people were all gathered together. The disciples were waiting as Jesus had told them to do.

Therefore, when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. This reminds us that meeting with other people is important.

Acts 2 3-13 – The Holy Spirit. Let us not stop learning and sharing our faith with others. The Holy Spirit arrives, not quietly, but with sound of wind and fire, indicating a new era. There were signs of transformation, God no longer dwells in a temple, but in people. The Spirit unites, breaking down language and cultural barriers. The crowd have a mixed reaction, some people are amazed, but some mock suggesting that people are drunk, a clear explanation is needed.

Acts 2 14-21- Peter's Explanation.

Pentecost gave the people an explanation. The crowd's reaction was a mix of bewilderment and amazement, with some mocking the display as drunkenness before Peter explained its spiritual significance. Peter, transformed by the Spirit, steps up to explain what is happening and explains it is the fulfilment of Joel 2 28-32, This is not drunkenness, but the promised "last days" outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh—young and old, men and women.

Conclusion - Pentecost is a call to live a life transformed by the Spirit, not just a historical event. It can empower Christians to share the good news of Jesus as well as reminding us that there can be unity among difference and diversity.

The Spirit gives us the boldness to share the good news with others. The Church is one body, where there is unity but not necessary uniformity. There can be unity and diversity in the Church, where Unity exists on core gospel message, while allowing diversity in expressions, music, and perspectives.

Prayer -

Thank you for your extraordinary love shown to us in Jesus. Help us to live each moment of each day in gratitude, loving those around us and witnessing to the ways of your Kingdom. Refresh us continually in the power of the Holy Spirit to be people of the Way. **Amen.**

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, rain down upon us we pray. Fall upon your church just as at that first Pentecost, when your Mighty outpouring of power transformed lives and ignited the life of the church.

At Pentecost your tongues of fire settled on the disciples enabling them to communicate in all languages. Holy Spirit, you impart the language of love and eternal life. You are not restricted to any race or a particular group of people. Jesus' salvation is open to all.

Holy Spirit, we pray for all who communicate the gospel to the world. Give them words people can relate to and understand. Open ears and hearts to receive. Empower Christians the world over.

Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today.**

We pray for wisdom, unity and truth in our government. We pray that the voices of all Christians in parliament will be heard. And that they will be effective witnesses in the corridors of power.

Holy Spirit, your power is above all. Transform this nation.

Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today.**

Holy Spirit, you are the breath of life. Come breathe new life into our communities today. Speak into the lives of the young people who hang about the streets, easy targets for those who seek to groom, manipulate and entice our youngsters into drink, drugs, prostitution and crime. Make our streets safe places to walk. Strengthen the vulnerable and purify with your living water those who seek to corrupt. Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today.**

We pray that with each new dawn all creation will be refreshed. Fill us to overflowing that we may boldly speak your powerful language of love and point the way to Jesus in a way others will understand and receive.

May the thirsty drink deeply of you and find their lives changed by your Mighty power. Empower and reignite your church this day. Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today. Amen.**

StF 566 - Take my life and let it be

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee:
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart - it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3gWwGDGgVA>

A sending out prayer:

Jesus, grow your gifts in us so that we might work for the good of those around us. Please give us the courage to share our gifts with others, knowing that all good things have come from you. **Amen.**