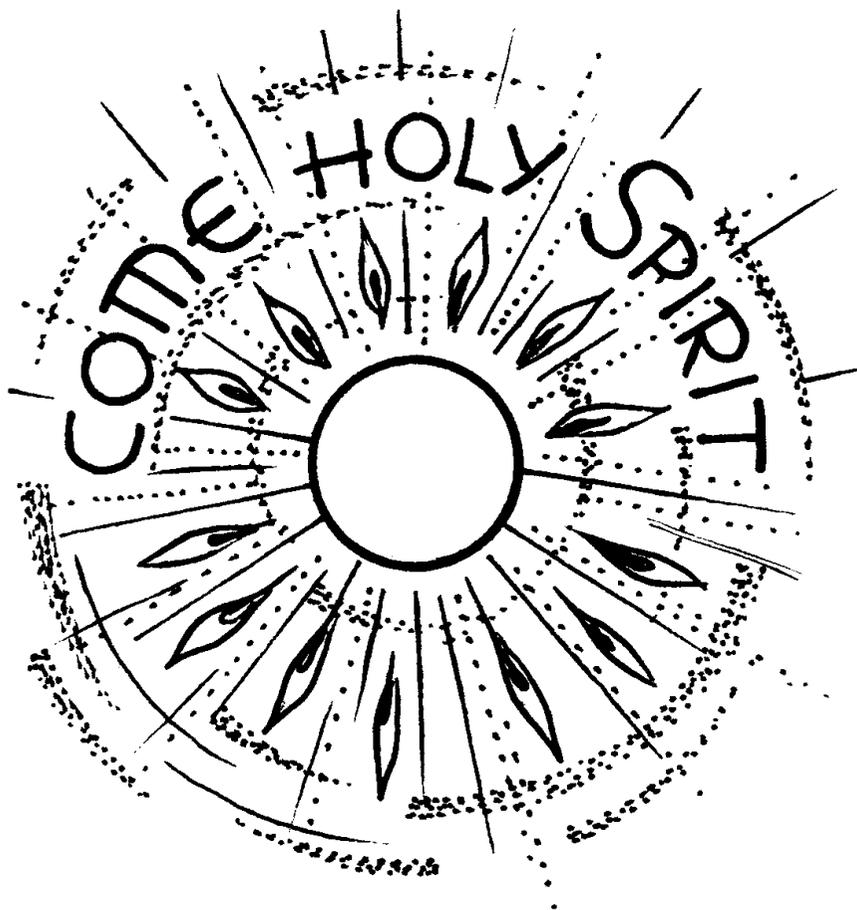


God's Spirit is Here!

A liturgy for Pentecost for use at home



HODGE HILL CHURCH

Growing Loving Community



You are the Church – We are the Church!

The day of Pentecost was when the friends and followers of Jesus, hidden away in fear after his death, bewildered by his resurrection, experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit among them in a way that gave them new confidence, and sent them out into the streets to share the good news with everyone, in the many languages of the world.

This year, we may be limited in where we can go, but the presence and power of the Spirit is with us nevertheless. Several members of our congregation have written and recorded reflections for today, from the different places where they find themselves. And the words in this booklet have been compiled especially for this Pentecost, for you to use in your home, wherever *you* are, knowing that your sister and brother Christians will be using them in other places nearby.

If there is more than one of you in your home, you might want to share around the parts of a leader/reader, and all join together in the words in **bold type**. If you are on your own, hopefully you'll feel able to say all the words yourself – either out loud (it's worth trying this!), or quietly in your head and heart.

What you'll need

As well as this booklet, you might want to gather together:

- The stone that you have been drawing or writing on during the Easter season (if you have it);
- One or more candles, and something to light them with;
- A pot of bubble-mix (we've included one in this week's worship pack, and they're also available for you to help yourself from a box at the side door of the church building);
- A Bible;
- A cross, or a picture to remind you of God's presence with you.

GATHERING

We begin our worship by lighting our candle(s).

Introduction

Behind locked doors,
the risen Jesus met his fearful friends.

Behind locked doors,
he showed them his wounds
and invited them to touch him.

Behind locked doors,
he came breathing peace,
and speaking words of forgiveness.

Behind locked doors,
he sent them his Spirit,
like breath, like wind, like flame.

Behind locked doors,
he meets us now,
and the breath of the Spirit
joins our breath
with the breathing of all creation;
and the flame of the Spirit
joins our love
with the love at the heart of all creation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

REFLECTING

In the worship pack for this week, there should also be a 'worship at home' booklet which includes readings from the bible, and reflections written by members of Hodge Hill Church.

*These readings and reflections have also been recorded for you to listen to, and this week that recording also includes the Taizé chant, **Veni Sancte Spiritus** ('Come, Holy Spirit') and a special recording of the song **Walk in the Light**, sung by members of our congregation. You can listen to the recording now by phoning **0121 227 5533**.*

PRAYING WITH GOD'S SPIRIT

If you have a stone (or something else that is heavy), take it and hold it while you reflect on the questions below. You might want to focus your attention on the flame of your candle.

- ***What situations are feeling hard and heavy, in our own lives, in the lives of others we know, and in the life of the world?***
- ***What might God's light and life look like in those situations?***
- ***What gifts do we long for the Spirit to bring, or to unearth, in those situations?***

Spend a while in silent prayer, holding the situations on your heart before God.

Be attentive to your breathing in, and out. Each time you breathe in, you might want to pray, in your heart, 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

Give as much time as you feel able, to this silent prayer. When you're ready, gently lay your stone down as you lay your prayers before God.

If you have some bubble mix to hand, pick it up now and blow some bubbles. With each blow, know the Spirit breathing through your breath, into every situation for which you've prayed. You might want to name those people, places and situations out loud, or quietly, as you blow the bubbles.

GIVING THANKS

*This is the moment in our normal Sunday service where we would gather around God's table and share communion together. Although we long for the time when we are able to do that again, **Jesus promises to be with us, in and through the breath of his Holy Spirit, wherever we are** – whether we are with other people, or on our own.*

The prayer today is a little bit different – a 'litany' which connects us to God's Spirit, and through the Spirit to all created things. You might want to pray it quietly or loudly, slowly or with lots of energy – in whatever way you feel able, or moved by the Spirit to pray!

God of all beginnings

God of endings

Eternal light of God

Warm breath of God

Melting touch of God

Healing hand of God

Creative love of God

Life-loving Spirit

Breath of the universe

Crafter of the heavens

Star-kindling Spirit

Sun-warming Spirit

Moon-shining Spirit

Bud-bursting Spirit

Sap-surgings Spirit

Painter of rainbows
Shaper of trees
Artist of flowers
Midwife of creatures
Source of all life

Spirit of justice
Spirit of power
Spirit of integrity
Spirit of mercy
Spirit of compassion
Spirit of generosity
Spirit of invitation
Spirit of gladness
Spirit of exuberance
Spirit of hope without horizon

Light of our lives
Supporter in our trials
Strength in weakness
Consolation in grief
Healer of wounds
Renewer of strength
Quencher of thirst
Shelter in storms
Tenderness in distress

Safe sheltering of God
Soft enfolding of God
Liberating challenge of God
Joyous song of God
Promise of God

Graciousness of God
Shimmering of God
Dream of God
Laughter of God
Sweet sorrow of God
Deep wisdom of God
Caressing of God
Still centre of God
Strong arm of God
Guidance of God

Giver of joy
Giver of comfort
Giver of peace
Giver of wisdom
Giver of right judgement
Giver of good counsel
Giver of strength
Giver of awe and wonder
Giver of love

Spirit of peace-making
Witness to justice
Breaker-down of walls of division
Builder of bridges
Loosener of chains
Opener of new pathways

Inspirer of creators
Inspirer of peace-makers
Inspirer of seekers after truth
Inspirer of workers for humanity

Inspirer of children
Inspirer of mystics

Wellspring of life
Fresh spring of renewal
Clear stream of refreshment
Wide ocean of love

Divine wind,
Breath of God,
as a whisper on the breeze,
a wind dancing in the treetops,
an exhilarating wind on the clifftops,
we sense you,
we welcome you,
we praise you!
Amen!



(Litany written by *Wellspring*, in Ruth Burgess, ed., *Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*)

*We join together with Christians across time and space, in saying **The Lord's Prayer** (in whichever version is most familiar):*

**Our Father
in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today
our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into
temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
For thine
is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING

As you say this final blessing, you might want to do the suggested actions (they should work whether you're on your own, or with others).

May God's Spirit fill our lives with joy

[place your hands on your heart]

May God's Spirit be the peace between us

[stretch out your hands in front of you, towards others, whether near or far]

May God's Spirit bring the world alive with love

[sweep your hands up and outwards, encircling the world]

Amen!

As you finish, think for a moment:

Who might the Spirit, the 'go-between God', be prompting you to connect with today?

You could make a phone call or, if you're able, have a face-to-face conversation (so long as you're at least 2m or 6' apart!): could they open their door or window?

Pray. Love. Give...

If you are able to give financially at this time, we invite you to continue to do so. Although we are unable to meet together on Sundays, the work of Hodge Hill Church continues, and we continue contributing to the common funds of the wider Church too. There are also ways in which you can support vital lifelines for our neighbours in these challenging times.

Please consider giving online, or via telephone banking, to one or more of the following:

- **Hodge Hill Church** (joint account – to enable our ongoing mission and ministry)

Sort code: 30-93-09

A/c no: 01912563

- **Bethany Foodbank** (supporting people in the Hodge Hill area with emergency food supplies)

Sort code: 40-11-07

A/c no: 81642995

Reference: LoveYourNeighbour

- **Hodge Hill community mutual aid fund** (supporting people in the Hodge Hill area who are facing serious financial challenges at this time)

Sort code: 30-93-09

A/c no: 06465158

Payee: Hodge Hill PCC

Reference: LoveYourNeighbour