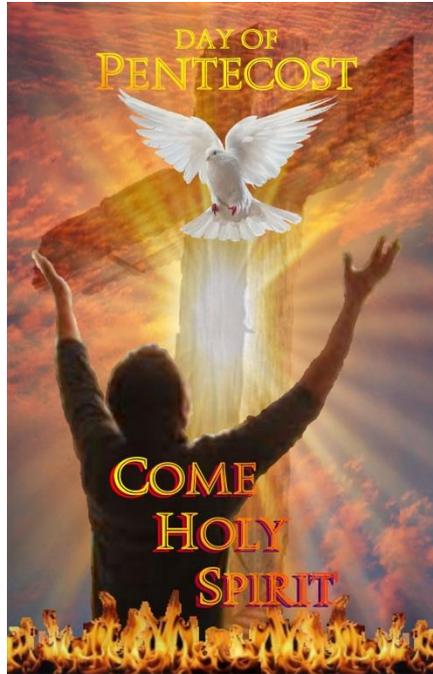


Morning Service
St Michael's Blundellsands
Worship at home

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background. Or you can start by listening to (and joining in with) your own choice of hymn on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HPKL1wOVXk>

Come Down O Love Divine



Opening:

The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given us
O lord open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and clothe your people with power from on high.

Alleluia.

Confession

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord

We come to you in sorrow for our sins,

And confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength

And not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy forgive us

Lord have mercy.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes as faithless and not believing

In your mercy, forgive us

Christ have mercy.

We have lived for this world alone and doubted our home in heaven
In your mercy forgive us

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from my sins
Heal and strengthen us and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen

Bible Reading Genesis 11:1-9 New International Version (NIV)

The Tower of Babel

11 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

⁸ So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Take a few minutes to contemplate these words.



Thought for the day from Helen

The Jeddah Tower, or Kingdom Tower in Saudi Arabia, is due to be completed this year. At 1008 metres will be the tallest building in the world, a symbol of money, power and strength. The story of the tower of Babel is a very ancient story, a story of technological power by building with bricks. It's a story people have used to explain the existence of different languages. It's a story of the human spirit's rebellion against God. "Let's build a tower to reach up to heaven, and make ourselves famous." It's a warning about making a name for ourselves, and getting too big for our boots. The consequences of that rebellion were separation by language and physical separation, as they were scattered over the face of the earth: Disunity resulted.

One lesson we can draw from this is about power. Rebellion against God, a thirst for power and misuse of technology cause divergence and withdrawal from each other. This is what we have seen in the world in the last century or so in particular, with the Holy Spirit of God far from many of us.

The day of Pentecost is the direct opposite of this - a reversal. It's a day of the power of the Holy Spirit, God takes back control. People from far and wide came together, and as the Spirit "was poured out on them a common language was restored. Once more there is unity of purpose under God's control. It is through language that peoples connect: love is expressed, faith is declared and power, a special sort of power, is given to those who believe in God.

In these days when we cannot easily speak to someone face to face, sit in each-others' houses or give someone a hug, the power of verbal communication has never been more important. What we say and how we say it is even more important without the clues of non-verbal communication. We have to rely more on the presence of the Holy Spirit to inspire and direct our interactions. It is more important than ever to make the supplication "O Lord, make clean our hearts within us: And take not your Holy Spirit from us".

Prayer

God, turn our hearts to our broken power mad world

and give us the vision and energy to keep on praying for the Holy Spirit to influence our communities with the light and love of the gospel.

Increase our desire to see people drawing closer to Jesus! Forgive us our small and self-centred ways and help us to think bigger

Help us to pray for the presence of your Spirit in our world **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

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**

Reading: Ephesians 1v13-14

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,
¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.



Talk by Neil

<https://youtu.be/QB3Mv3Dtqg0>

Lord I come to You
let my heart be changed, renewed
flowing from the grace
that I found in You.
And Lord I've come to know
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away
by the power of Your love.

*Hold me close
let Your love surround me
bring me near
draw me to Your side.
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
and I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
in the power of Your love.*

Lord unveil my eyes
let me see You face to face
the knowledge of Your love
as You live in me.
Lord renew my mind
as Your will unfolds in my life
in living every day
by the power of Your love.

Responses

Come Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.

We who are led by the spirit of God are children of God and fellow heirs with Christ.
Come Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your people.

Renew the face of your creation Lord. Pouring on us the gifts of your Spirit
And kindle in us the fire of your love.

For the creation waits with eager longing and the glorious liberty of the children of God
**Come Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

A prayer for the day

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



On-line Prayer Tips

Each Wednesday, I am uploading two-minute talks about prayer. Like many people I find prayer difficult, so in these videos I include tips on different ways to pray. To access the seventh video, click the link below.

<https://youtu.be/jgE-pplqgx0>

The Conclusion

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with my spirit. **Amen**