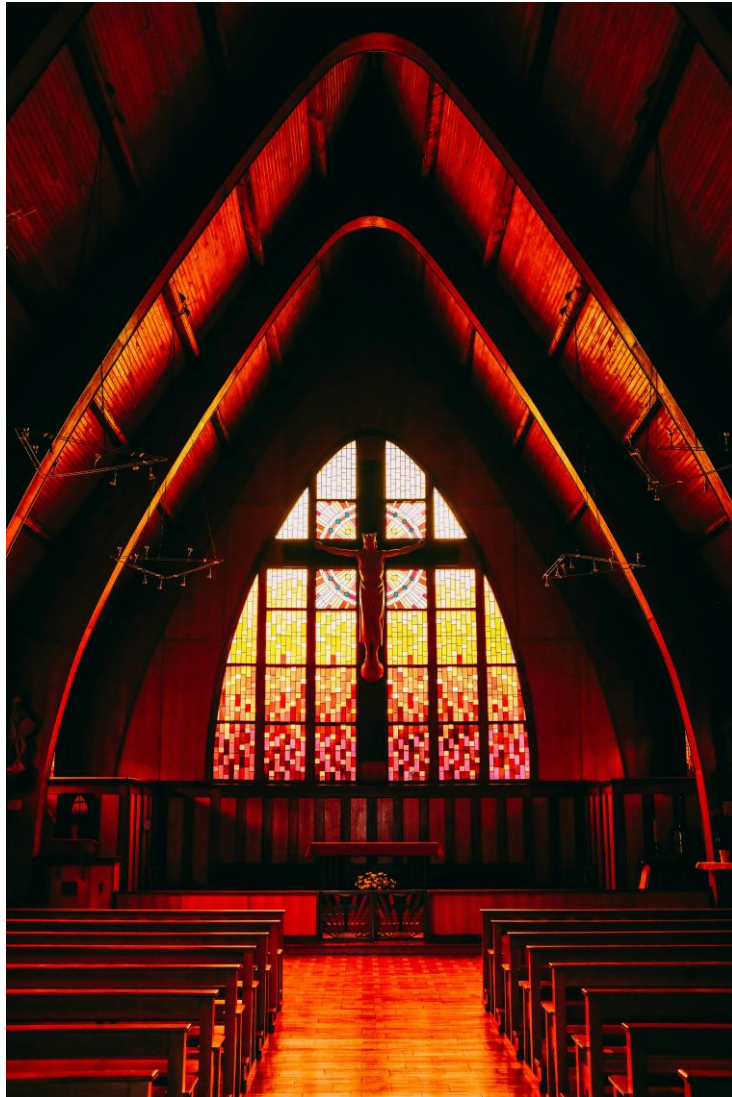


Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

**Sunday 8 June 2025
Pentecost**

Welcome to this week's Prayers and Reflections. We have come to the glorious and dramatic day of Pentecost. After ten long days of praying, the Holy Spirit bursts into the apostles' lives. They are ready to go in Jesus' name and proclaim his Good News message. Simon the Fisherman who denied knowing Jesus is transformed into Peter the Rock on which Jesus is building his worldwide Church. It is all the Spirit's doing.

Enjoy reflecting on the difference God is making to your life.

God bless,

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As you prepare to enter into the events of Pentecost, take a moment to invite God's Spirit to come and fill your time of prayer and reflection.



Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
and make this house thy home;
descend with all thy gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come!

Andrew Reed (1787-1862)

Prayers and Reflections for use at home on Pentecost Come!

PREPARING OURSELVES

Take a moment to be still in God's presence, and feel his love. You may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in this room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
come and breathe new life
into my willing soul as
I rest in your loving presence
and listen for your words to me. **Amen.**

LETTING GO

If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, or times when you wish you had turned to God for his guidance, offer them to him in the silence of your heart. And, when you are ready, reflect on the second verse of our Pentecost hymn.

Come as the light: to us reveal
our emptiness and woe;
and lead us in those paths of life
where all the righteous go.

Andrew Reed (1787-1862)

If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.



Our prayerful verse invites God's Spirit to come as the light who reveals our daily life to us. Like a bright ray of sunshine lighting up our room, God's Spirit can highlight the beauty within our hearts and can show up our inner dust motes. What lies hidden within us God reveals to us so that we can spring clean our souls. Pause to picture your life as a room where the sun is shining in. What is God's Spirit showing you about yourself? The beautiful aspects of your nature? And, the parts which could do with some dusting and cleaning? Do you need his help with this?



If so, seek the Spirit's life-transforming skills by prayerfully saying this third verse of our hymn.

Come as the fire, and purge our hearts
like sacrificial flame;
let our whole soul an offering be
to our Redeemer's name.

Andrew Reed (1787-1862)

PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER (The Collect)

*Across our villages and the worldwide Church,
this prayer is being said today. Add your voice to this earthly circle
of prayer to and through God's Spirit.*

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*As a child of the New Forest, I have come close to many a forest fire;
some of which were lit deliberately to cleanse and revive the heathland so
that the heather and gorse could grow in greater abundance. I've also
seen how a fire can spread outwards - if unchecked - for acres,
consuming everything in its path.*

God's Spirit came at Pentecost to ignite Christ's Church so that the flame of faith could spread outwards from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria, Galilee and on to the countries of the Mediterranean. Pentecost marks the birth of the worldwide Church - its launch! Once set free, God's Spirit can inspire new life and new ways of living in peoples across the globe. You cannot stop him!

We so need the Holy Spirit to come and re-energise Christ's Church within this country. There are two or three generations in our villages, towns and cities who have lost touch with God's story. With God's Spirit to equip and guide the Church, we can reach out to them. We can make Christ known to them and his presence real to them. All it takes is love, both our love of God and our love for those around us.

Do pray for the reviving and renewing of God's Church. Do pray for those you would love to experience God's Spirit speaking to their spirits. May his love touch their hearts and souls, and transform their lives.



Come as the Dove, and spread thy wings,
the wings of perfect love;
and let thy church on earth become
blest as the church above.

Andrew Reed (1787-1862)

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

The Holy Spirit ignites the Church

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'

Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

O come, great Spirit, come!

Our hymn for Pentecost speaks of God's Spirit coming as a light who reveals the hidden and hurtful aspects of our inner lives, as well as the beautiful elements. Pentecost is a time to say, 'Spirit, come and change those parts of me that you don't like. I want to be the best that I can be.' The apostles will have prayed for this as they awaited his coming. To go and do what Jesus commanded them to do - witness to his love - will take each one of them far outside their comfort zone. And, the Spirit did this so very powerfully at Pentecost. Just look at Peter's inner confidence as he takes to the stage and speaks such stirring words.

Secondly, our hymn speaks of God's Spirit coming as a fire who cleanses our souls by burning. All of Peter's shame from his three denials is burnt away as, under the Spirit's guidance, he gives his maiden speech. He is the rock on which our Lord is building his Church. Come, Spirit, change us! And, thirdly, our hymn speaks of God's Spirit coming as a gentle dove who alights on the Church just as he alighted on Jesus at his baptism. It is an act of love. God's Spirit will come and stay with Peter and the apostles as they face countless challenges and dangers. He is the one who blesses by connecting earth with heaven. He is the gift of at-one-ness with the God who loves and sends us. Come, Spirit, speak within us.

Which of these Spirit's comings are you seeking? Coming as a light who reveals... coming as a fire who cleanses... coming as a dove who heartens and encourages. Prayerfully invite him to come... come and bless... come and transform. May you feel alive with his presence!



Spirit divine, attend our prayers;
make a lost world thy home;
descend with all thy gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come!

Andrew Reed (1787-1862)

OUR PRAYERS

Feel free to use one or more of these prayers and to add your own.

Holy Spirit, living flame of God, come and bless me with your presence, you are my still small voice. Without you, I would feel lost and alone, adrift from Jesus and his Father in heaven. O come, great Spirit, come...

Holy Spirit, hear my prayer.

Holy Spirit, living flame of God, come and fill me with dreams, dreams of how the world will be when it is filled with your love, your unity and peace. O come, great Spirit, come and transform lives in...

Holy Spirit, hear my prayer.

Holy Spirit, living flame of God, come and revive the spirits of those who are struggling with life or with their health. Guide, Lord, all who care for them on a daily basis. O come, great Spirit, come and refresh...

Holy Spirit, hear my prayer.

Offer your own heartfelt prayers and yearnings, praise and thanksgivings.

The 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.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A closing prayer of blessing for this week.

Spirit of God, you search me and you know me,
all my thoughts and feelings are open to your gaze,
you light the paths I will take. Inspire all that I say and do.
Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**