

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

THE LITURGY
FOR THE
FEAST OF PENTECOST
(AS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED IN 2020)



CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Welcome to St Michael and All Angels', Abingdon.

You are very welcome here and we hope you will feel part of the parish family meeting to worship God. If you are a visitor today please introduce yourself to one of the clergy, or one of the sidespeople, and stay behind for refreshments.

Our Worship Today: The Feast of Pentecost

Pentecost (the name derives from the 'fiftieth' of fifty days of celebration) has its roots in the Jewish Festival of Weeks, which was completed on the fiftieth day after Passover. In the Christian tradition, on the fiftieth day of Easter, God sends his Holy Spirit to empower the Church to perform the mission which the Risen Christ has entrusted to it.

The themes of renewal and empowerment run through the service. After the reading from Acts, which tells of the coming of the Spirit, Chrism Oil (which was blessed by our Bishop on Maundy Thursday) is presented and we are invited to join in the prayers for personal renewal. Chrism Oil is a physical representation of having the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is why we are anointed with it at our Confirmation when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We use the same oil today as it renews that gift within us at Pentecost, and equips us to be Christians in the community we live and in the wider world. Those who wish to do so may be anointed with this oil after receiving Holy Communion. Instructions as to how that will happen will be given at an appropriate time before, or during, the liturgy.

The final part of the liturgy, after notices, picks up the theme of empowerment as we prepare to leave. The servers will light our candles from the Paschal Candle that was lit from the new fire at the Easter Vigil. The president then invites us anew, as the church community at St Michael's, to perform the mission of the church empowered by the Spirit, in our time and place. The Paschal Candle is extinguished. After this we either gather around the Labyrinth or go outside the church building, symbolising going out into the world carrying the light of Christ. Finally, the president prays God's blessing on us, as we go out to live as Christ's body in the world today.

THE GATHERING

Priest In the name of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

Priest Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Priest Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Introduction

¶ *The service is introduced with these words:*

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord, and we have walked with him through his journey of love. We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

¶ *We sing the hymn VENI CREATOR, NEH 138.*

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far from foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

¶ *Silence is kept.*

The Pentecost Reading

¶ *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2.1-13)*

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 ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¶ *The reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Personal Renewal

¶ *The oil of Chrism is presented:*

Deacon Oil for the renewal of God's people.

¶ *The priest says*

Priest Be with us, Spirit of God:

All **nothing can separate us from your love.**

Priest Breathe on us, breath of God:
All **fill us with your saving power.**

Priest Speak in us, wisdom of God:
All **bring strength, healing and peace.**

Priest Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All **Let us praise and bless God for ever.**

¶ *We sing* GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

¶ *We are invited to prayer with the words, Let us pray. After a moment's silence, the priest sings the collect and all respond Amen.*

Priest Let us pray

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Gospel Reading

¶ *We sing the GRADUAL HYMN, NEH 342.*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die;
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch, 1835-89

¶ *The deacon's heralds the Gospel reading:*



All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

¶ *When the Gospel is announced the deacon says:*

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¶ *At the end of the Gospel:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

¶ The **deacon** invites the assembly to join in an affirmation of the faith of the Church with the words,

Deacon Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God, the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is
named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with
his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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

All **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

All **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

All **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

All **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

All **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

All **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

All **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,

All **hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Peace

¶ *The Peace is introduced in these words:*

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what
is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our
hearts. Allelulia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

¶ *All may exchange a sign of peace.*

¶ *We sing the Offertory hymn, NEH 137.*

Come down, O love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till Love create a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Bianco da Siena, d. 1434;
trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, Jr., 1833-90*

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
And also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus
Christ the King of glory.
Born of a woman,
he came to the rescue of the human race.
Dying for us,
he trampled death and conquered sin.
By the glory of his resurrection

he opened the way to life eternal
and by his ascension,
gave us the sure hope
that where he is we may also be.
Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy
and with choirs of angels we sing for every to your
praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come
again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the
cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of
the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming
in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this
cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to
stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into
one in your kingdom all who share this one bread
and one cup, so that we, in the company of [*N and*]
all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with
whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for
ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has
taught us,

All **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.

The Breaking of the Bread

¶ *The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says*

Priest Lord, we died with you on the cross.
All **Now we are raised to new life.**

Priest We were buried in your tomb.
All **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Priest Live in us, that we may live in you.

¶ *The priest invites us to receive Holy Communion.*

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

¶ *We sing the AGNUS DEI,*

Jesus lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

¶ *We then receive Holy Communion. Those who wish to receive the ministry of prayer and anointing for personal renewal may do so at the Blessed Sacrament chapel, after communicating.*

¶ *Communion hymn NEH 431.*

O thou who camest from above
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

¶ *Communion hymn*

This is the day of the Spirit's descending,
pouring out gifts for the healing of nations:
wisdom and counsel and knowledge and reverence,
strength, understanding and godly endurance.

Give to us, Father, the wisdom of Jesus,
shed in our hearts his delight in your purpose.
Kindle the flame of his love and his joy –
the grace of his peace that no power can destroy.

Send us out, Master, to live to your glory,
and when we find you hungry or thirsty,
naked or homeless, sick or in prison,
grant us to serve you – the One who is risen.

Here, in this moment, bestow what we long for:
bread for our journey and wine for our joying.
Life-giving Spirit and source of compassion,
dwell in our hearts and Christ there re-fashion.

Glory to you here on earth be unending:
Spirit of God, from the Father proceeding,
who with the Son we now hymn and adore,
Three ever One – today, evermore.

© Paul P J Sheppy
Tune: O Quanta Qualia.

Prayer after Communion

¶ *Silence is kept. The priest says:*

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest: Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

¶ Banns of marriage, announcements and notices for the week are given.

The Dismissal

Blessing of Light

¶ The ministers go to the Paschal Candle. A minister says,

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your
word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessèd be God for ever.**

¶ Each member of the congregation has a candle which is now lit in silence.

Commission

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when

God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in Abingdon, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

All **By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

All **We will.**

¶ The Paschal Candle is extinguished in silence, but please keep your own candle alight.

Conclusion

¶ The president says

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Priest Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

¶ We gather round the Labyrinth or move outdoors, to the accompaniment of organ music.

¶ The priest blesses us, saying

Priest The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God, and the blessing of God almighty, the + Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ The **deacon** dismisses us with the words,

Go in the peace of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation consists of four staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a whole rest followed by a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a half note B4. The second staff has a treble clef and a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a half note B4. The third staff has a treble clef and a whole rest followed by a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a half note B4. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a half note B4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.