**St John’s, Bourne End**

**worshipping together while we are apart**

**Sunday 31st May 2020: Pentecost**

*I suggest that if there is more than one of you, you choose someone to read the words in normal print and all join in with the words in bold or if you are alone, you silently read the words in normal print and say the words in bold out loud. Try not to rush through the words but allow some time for God to speak to you and you to hear him.*

*Remember, although we may be physically apart, we are together in spirit as we worship God together for we are all part of God’s family at St John’s.*

*Rebecca*

***Gathering***

As we wait in silence,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,

**fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,

f**ill us with your Spirit.**

*Pause to allow us to experience God’s presence with us*

***Confession***

As we come into God’s presence, we are aware that not everything we have said, thought and done this week has been glorifying to him. We are also aware that there is much pain and brokenness in the world because of sin. Take a moment to bring to mind those things you wish to confess to our heavenly Father this morning:

*Pause*

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse us from our sins,

and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Prayer for personal renewal***

Be with us, Spirit of God;

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

Breathe on us, breath of God;

**fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;

**bring strength, healing, and peace.**

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Let us praise and bless God for ever.**

***Praise***

Let’s praise God with these words from the prophet Ezekiel:

**The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.**

I will take you from the nations,

and gather you from all the countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,

and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.

A new heart I will give you,

and put a new spirit within you,

And I will remove from your body the heart of stone

and give you a heart of flesh.

You shall be my people,

and I will be your God.

*Ezekiel 36.24-26,28b*

**The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.**

***Pause for thought***

Today we are celebrating the feast of Pentecost, the day when we remember that God sent his Holy Spirit to live in all his people, just as the prophet Joel prophesied and Jesus promised. Pentecost is also known as the birthday of the church. What are you grateful for about St John’s?

***Readings***

1 Corinthians 12.1-13

Acts 2.1-21

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk***

**Revd Hilary Kemp**

***Pause to reflect***

Let’s spend a moment asking God to fill us afresh with his Holy Spirit this morning.

You might like to use this song as a way of praying. Why not open your hands as a sign that you wish to receive God’s Spirit and sing it prayerfully several times.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***Creed***

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**

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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,

in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us

**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We draw our prayers together with today’s collect

**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.**

We pray together the family prayer of the Church

**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 for ever. Amen.**

***Closing prayer***

*Why not picture the people from St John’s who you would normally see on a Sunday and pray this blessing for all your church family?*

**The Lord bless us and keep us;**

**the Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us;**

**the Lord turn his face towards us and give us peace. Amen.**

Based on Numbers 6.24-26

Filled with the Spirit’s power,

go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

***Coffee***

*Now, why not make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and then ring someone from St John’s for a chat?*