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## **PENTECOST A**

24th May 2026

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

Take a moment to still yourself, and become aware of your breathing, of your body, of your presence in this space.

If you feel comfortable, you might like to close your eyes for a bit and concentrate on your breathing, taking a deep breath in and a slow breath out. In a moment of quietness take a few more relaxing breaths.

Now, you might like to imagine that you are sat in that upper room with the disciples. You are not alone in still feeling lost and confused, asking what next. Wondering too if you are capable of continuing the mission of Jesus. Suddenly, the room is filled with a violent wind, and you can see tongues of fire.

What is happening? This is terrifying. There is a part of you that would like to get up and run but suddenly a sense of calm comes over you, you hear your brothers and sisters talking, you realise the languages are unfamiliar, but you understand the words. With a sense of joyful confidence, you want to head straight out to meet with the people outside. Those you encounter are confused but Peter explains what has gone on. With that, you join with all those who were in the upper room and share the words and teachings of Jesus. People understood and many came forward to be baptised.

As you sit here now, today, in this time of worship, perhaps you are asking similar questions to the disciples, perhaps you too can feel lost, confused, asking what next, wondering if you are up to the task in hand...

Take in another deep breath, breath out slowly and know this...

You are loved.

You are known.

You are accepted, just as you are.

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.**

**Reading:** Acts 2:1-21 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

Pentecost begins with waiting.

The disciples are gathered together, unsure of what comes next. Jesus has gone. The future is uncertain. They are in that in-between space, holding onto a promise, but not yet seeing how it will unfold.

And then, everything changes.

A sound like a rushing wind. Tongues of fire. Voices speaking in languages they have never learned. Suddenly, the Spirit is not just an idea or a memory: it is alive, moving, disruptive.

This is not a quiet moment. It is bold, visible, impossible to ignore.

And what is the result? Not confusion, but connection. People from different nations, cultures, and languages hear the message in ways they can understand. The Spirit does not erase difference, it honours it. It speaks through it.

For those of us walking a thoughtful, inclusive path of faith, this matters deeply. Pentecost reminds us that God's presence is not confined to one voice, one culture, one way of understanding. The Spirit moves beyond boundaries: expanding, including, drawing people together without making them the same.

Then Peter stands up and interprets what is happening. He reaches back to the prophet Joel: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh."

Not just a few. Not just the powerful, but everyone, all flesh.

Sons and daughters. Young and old. Those who are often heard: and those who are often overlooked. Pentecost is a moment of radical inclusion.

But it is also a moment of calling. The Spirit does not simply comfort the disciples: it sends them out. It gives them courage to speak, to act, to live differently.

For us, Pentecost asks some important questions:

- Where do you see the Spirit moving in unexpected places today?
- How might God be speaking through voices or experiences you have not yet fully heard?
- What would it look like to be open: not just to being comforted by the Spirit, but to being changed by it?

The Spirit does not leave things as they are. It stirs. It challenges. It creates something new.

And perhaps that is both the gift and the risk of Pentecost: God is still speaking, God is still moving, and we are invited to listen and to respond.

May you feel the breath of the Spirit in your life: disrupting what needs to change, igniting what needs to grow, and calling you into a wider, braver, more loving way of being.

### **Hymn:**

167 STF – Colours of day dawn into the mind – [YouTube](#)

370 STF – Breathe on me, breath of God - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

The Spirit of God is inclusive, invitational and wild.

The Spirit of God is ahead of you, already at work in the world out there.

The Spirit of God invites you to join in the work of healing, hope and love,

May you encounter that Spirit this day, and every day,

Amen.

# Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

## Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May

- Yesterday was Aldersgate Sunday, as well as being Pentecost – on this day, we celebrate the anniversary of John Wesley having his heart ‘strangely warmed’, which led to the founding of the Methodist movement and Wesley’s significant influence on the Christian church.
- Today, pray that may your heart be open to the new inspiration of God’s Spirit at work in the world.

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May

- Chose a piece of music that you find relaxing or calming (you might like to look up something by Karl Jenkins if you have no immediate inspiration!).
- Spend some time just listening to the music, ideally with your eyes closed and your hands still. Switch off from the distractions of modern life, just for a few moments.
- Pray about any of the emotions you notice or feel during this time.

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

- God of all grace,  
Today I am thankful, for what I have received.  
Amongst all the pressures and stresses of life,  
I am taking a moment to be grateful, to notice your goodness at work in my life,  
To see that the whole universe is sparkling with love and possibility.
- Help me to live from a place of gratitude today,  
In Jesus’ name.  
Amen.

## Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May

- Today is the day that the Episcopal church celebrates John Calvin, one of the key thinkers and actors in the Reformation.
- Today, you might like to pray for all those involved in theological thought and training, those trying to discern what it is that God is doing in the world and how our understanding of the nature of the divine is changing and transforming.
- If you know people who are involved in this kind of work, you might like to let them know they are in your prayers today.

## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

- This is the date that ‘Restoration Day’ or ‘Oak Apple Day’ was celebrated for many years in England, Wales and Ireland, to commemorate the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.
- Today, the political celebration has all but ceased, but it is still marked as a day for celebrating oak trees and their significance to history, heritage and landscapes.
- How could you celebrate trees today, and in your prayers, pray for the preservation of the precious ecology in which we live.

## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May

- Gracious God, thank you for this week.  
As I head into the weekend, show me how to be a channel of your grace, peace, hope and love out into the world.
- Lead me, by your Spirit, O God. Amen.