



# Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, the Celebration of Pentecost.

Prepared by Rev'd Phillip Dixon.

This written worship has been prepared for you to use as we gather in separate places, united together in love for our Lord Jesus Christ and one another. The knowledge that we are sharing in this worship in our own homes and for some, in our church buildings is a tremendous encouragement to us all and at a time of physical separation God's Holy Spirit brings us together spiritually. Today is Pentecost Sunday, a significant and foundational day in the life of the church 2,000 or so years ago and most certainly also for us today.

**Good morning church, happy birthday!**

**Opening words:** O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,  
when your ancestors tested me,  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen  
my work.  
For forty years I loathed that generation  
and said, "They are a people whose hearts go



astray, and they do not regard my ways."

Therefore in my anger I swore,

"They shall not enter my rest." **Amen.** Psalm 95 NRSV

**We sing:** All over the world SoF12

Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q76GXwxCHJQ&ab\\_channel=ChetValleyChurches](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q76GXwxCHJQ&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches)

All over the world, the Spirit Is moving  
All over the world as the prophet said it would be  
All over the world there's a mighty revelation  
Of the glory of the Lord,  
as the waters cover the sea.

All over His church God's Spirit is moving  
All over His church as the prophet said it would be  
All over His church, there's a mighty revelation  
Of the glory of the Lord,  
as the waters cover the sea.

Right here in this place, the Spirit is moving  
Right here in this place as the prophet said it would be  
Right here in this place, there's a mighty revelation  
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the  
Sea. Roy Turner, Thankyou Music.

### **Opening Prayer:**

Creator God, we glimpse Your beauty  
in the setting sun, in the forest, in the garden  
birds and the waves on our shores.  
We know Your promise in rainbows our symbol of  
hope and promise,  
Creator God we praise You.

Jesus, we see Your love  
stretched out upon a cruel cross.  
We stand in awe at Your sacrifice,  
pure love poured out for humankind.  
Jesus we praise You.

Holy Spirit, we see Your power  
in lives transformed, hearts on fire.  
We listen for Your still, small voice,  
comforting, guiding, calling.  
Holy Spirit we praise You.

From the moment we awake for each new day  
until we lay down to rest at the days end, You are  
with us, through times of fear, through times of  
joy. Your presence is enough for our needs. **Amen**

### **A prayer of Confession:**

Lord God, your love for humankind present in the  
beginning of all things,  
extends throughout history and touches all our  
loves.  
Your love sees failings  
and forgives.  
Your love feels pain  
and wipes away our tears.  
Your love knows grief  
and comforts the sorrowful.  
Your love sees sin  
and still loves the sinner.  
Forgive us when we fail to live lives that reflect  
your love.  
Forgive us the many times when we take for  
granted all that you have done for us.  
Transform us, through your Spirit,  
and empower us to serve you,  
this day and all days. **Amen**

*A time of silence when we confess our sins to God  
and listen to what He may be saying to us.*

Father God, forgive our sins and renew us in the  
name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. You are slow to  
anger and full of compassion. You forgive all who  
humbly repent and trust in Jesus as Saviour and  
Lord. There is therefore now no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Prayers  
contributed by Kate Phillips. Assurance of Forgiveness from Exodus 34:6-7  
and Romans 8:1.

### **Our Lord's Prayer (the Christian family prayer):**

Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the Kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. **Amen.**

**Prayer:** Loving Lord God, as we read Your Holy  
Word together, we pray that our hearts and  
minds will be fully open to hear what You are  
saying to us about the coming of the Holy Spirit in  
power and truth. May Your Word always be to us  
a fresh and insightful revelation. **Amen.**

### **Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all  
together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the  
blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and  
filled the whole house where they were  
sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of  
fire that separated and came to rest on each of  
them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy  
Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the  
Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-  
fearing Jews from every nation under  
heaven. <sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd  
came together in bewilderment, because each  
one heard their own language being  
spoken. <sup>7</sup>Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all  
these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>Then how is  
it that each of us hears them in our native

language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> “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.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day  
of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

New International Version

### **A time to pause, read again, pray, and reflect.**

**Preaching Notes:** This is a special day in which we celebrate “the birth” of the Christian Church. It is from this day of Pentecost that many consider the church (from the Greek ecclesia, most commonly translated and meaning the “called out ones of God”) began in a purposeful sense. It

is for this event that Jesus had told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem (see Luke 24:49).

Pentecost, held 50 days after the Passover, is also known as the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot. It is one of the three major annual Jewish festivals (Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot) and guarantees a very large number of visitors to Jerusalem from many different regions (“three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord - Deuteronomy 16:16). Jesus was crucified and resurrected at the time of the Jewish Passover, forty days following this He ascended to heaven (see Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:3) and ten days following, we arrive at this special day in preparation for the powerful coming and outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the believers with the whole of Jerusalem as witnesses (either directly themselves or certainly by word of mouth).

Acts 1:15 we read that the believers were a group numbering about one hundred and twenty, it was likely that this whole group cast lots to choose a new leader/apostle to replace Judas -an early sign of the importance of collective and prayerful decision making in their choice of leaders. Also, it was this larger group who were all together (2:1) and received the Holy Spirit as like tongues of fire that rested upon them. A tongue to represent the importance of proclaiming and praising God and fire to represent the cleansing/purifying that is required in the hearts of men (remember the Emmaus road pair –“were not our hearts burning within us?” Luke 24:32).

Peter, standing with the eleven (which now includes the newly appointed Matthias) gives the first “Christian Church” sermon (verses 14-41). “Fellow Jews and all...” demonstrates inclusivity, no one is excluded from being invited to hear the message he brings. “Let me explain...” preaching needs to be instructive, providing explanation. “This is what was spoken...” preaching must make connections to the Old Testament prophets (recall the words of Jesus “...he explained to them all what was said in the scriptures concerning himself -Luke 24:25-27). Lastly and most

importantly, preaching must be with the aim of proclaiming Jesus and the message of salvation through the cross, the truth and meaning of the resurrection and the offer of the Holy Spirit, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (verse 21) and later in the sermon “repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins” (verse 38).

My prayer, on this very special day of Pentecost, is that like these early believers, we will “all be joined together constantly in prayer” (1:14) and will be faithful witnesses to the places we live and to the ends of the earth (see 1:8) **Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

O Lord our God,  
source of all goodness and love,  
accept the fervent prayers of your people;  
in the multitude of your mercies look with  
compassion upon all who turn to you for help;  
for you are gracious, O lover of souls. We pray for  
everyone going through the pain of separation  
and grief.

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule. We pray  
for the peace of Jerusalem and an end to the  
suffering, fear and conflict in the Palestinian  
administered territories and within Israel.

*A time to bring your own prayers to the throne of  
grace. Amen.* “Prayers for the World” Church of England.

**Closing song:** Holy Spirit, come, StF 381  
Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDKnnbezng&ab\\_channel=SpringHarvest-Topic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDKnnbezng&ab_channel=SpringHarvest-Topic)

Holy Spirit, breath of heaven,  
Holy Spirit, breathe on us.  
Breathe us to a quiet stillness,  
where we trust your love for us.

Holy Spirit, breath of heaven,  
Holy Spirit, breathe on us.  
Breathe us to a quiet  
where we find your place for us.

Holy Spirit, breath of heaven,  
Holy Spirit, breathe on us.  
Breathe us to a quiet stillness  
where we know that you are God.  
Geraldine Latty (b. 1963)

**Closing words:** Go out into God’s world filled with the spark of the Holy Spirit. Let love guide your actions. Listen for the Spirit of Truth. Spread the peace of Christ and remind everyone you meet that each one is a beloved child of God. **Amen.**

**Notices:** We invite you to take part in our weekly services, perhaps by reading, opening the service with prayer, prayers for our world and practical help like the weekly graphics from the computer. Please speak to Diana, Angela, Janine or Kathy for Highcliffe and Jenny or Pam for Bransgore who will happily let you know what is required.

Next Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May at Highcliffe 10:30am we celebrate the anniversary of the fellowship with David Ellis preaching.

Bransgore opens its building Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May with a morning service of Holy Communion at 10:30am with Phillip Dixon preaching.

**Monday:** "At home" discussion group on Zoom at 7pm.

**Tuesday:** Prayer meeting on Zoom at 8am, "At home" discussion group on Zoom 7pm.

**Thursday:** "At home" discussion group on Zoom 10.30am.

**Sunday:** Pentecost service with Holy Communion at Highcliffe 10:30am and outside Pentecost celebration at Bransgore at 6pm.

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Phillip Dixon, May 2021. YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182.