**5th June 2022 Pentecost Sunday**

**Queens Platinum Jubilee**

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Call to worship

Whoever you are, come together and come to God.
Wherever you’re from, come together and come to God.
Whatever you bring, come together and come to God.
However you feel, come together and come to God.
God is here, and God is good!



A gathering prayer

Generous God, as we gather in this place,
give us open hearts and minds to receive all you have for us.
Renew us with your life and warm us with your love,
fill us with the power and presence of your Spirit. Amen.



A prayer of approach

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever.
Let us praise our marvellous God as long as we live.
May our meditations be pleasing to him
as we rejoice in the Lord and all he gives us.
Let us praise the Lord. Amen.



A prayer of adoration

*Ask younger people to say the lines in bold.*

God of wonder, how marvellous you are.
We have an awesome God.
All creation looks to you to provide and satisfy every need.
You amaze us with your sustaining breath,
your wisdom and wonderful generosity.
God of wonder, how marvellous you are.
We have an awesome God.
From glory you lovingly gave your Son Jesus Christ
to come among us and to die on the cross for us
before taking him back to sit at your right hand.
God of wonder, how marvellous you are.
We have an awesome God.
With mighty power you poured out your Holy Spirit at Pentecost on all people, all ages, all nations;
igniting the life of your church with wind and fire.
God of wonder, how marvellous you are.
We have an awesome God. Amen.



A prayer of confession and an Assurance of forgiveness

A prayer of confession

Lord, forgive us the days we don’t feel like rejoicing and when we find peace evading us. We are sorry when we fail to live as Spirit-filled children of God. Negative emotions have a habit of infiltrating. We find ourselves fearing situations we can’t control, doubting what we can’t see or understand. Others may share of what you have done in their lives and sometimes we find ourselves being sceptical instead of accepting, believing and rejoicing in your wonders.
Lord God, forgive us.
Help us to live more Spirit-filled lives. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

God sent his Son to shed his blood as payment for our sins.
God sent his Holy Spirit to live with us and in us.
Be at peace. For Jesus is faithful and just. Our sins are forgiven.
We praise you, Father God.
We thank you, Jesus.
Holy Spirit, come fill us afresh. Amen.



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A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Abba Father, we thank you for showing yourself to us in Jesus.
We thank you for your unlimited, loving generosity.
You lead us by your Spirit and call us your children.
We praise you, Abba Father.

Your Spirit of truth heightens our senses, fills us, reminds us of all we’ve been taught,
enables us to do so much more than we could ever do on our own.
Holy Spirit, we thank you for the strength, wisdom and boldness you fill us with;
moving in and around us,
empowering us to effectively share of you.

Thank you that the more of you we take in the more we can give out.
May we soak you up like sponges, taking in all that you have to give.
And so, inspire others to drink you in and find fulfilment in you.
Amen

**Coronations**

This solemn and beautiful ceremony has deep meaning.

. The Coronation is sometimes called ‘the Hallowing’ – a word which means to make holy or to consecrate. The Sovereign’s office is both sacred and civil and so the Coronation is an act of dedication and consecration. Coronation is the placing of a crown on the head of a new monarch and has its origin in Saxon times. The anointing is said to be the real pivot of the whole coronation of which the Crowning is the culmination.

The Coronation service has changed little since the coronation of King Edgar in 973. It has four parts; Recognition, the Oath, the Investiture and the Homage.

The pagan rites of initiation were transformed by **anointing** and **the oath**, requiring the monarch to maintain the Christian faith and govern justly. It is far less a spectacle than a profound religious rite of dedication to service.

**The Recognition**

The Recognition is the formal recognition of the right of the Sovereign to rule. The coronation ceremony begins with this. The Queen is presented to each side of the congregation by the

archbishop, who asks them if they will do her homage and service. They shout back ‘God save Queen Elizabeth’ – the people have approved their Queen. Then trumpets sound and the Sovereign is seated in the Chair of State.

**The Oath**

In the Oath the Queen swears to govern her peoples according to their respective laws and customs, and to preserve true religion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, (Dr Geoffrey Fisher) administers the Coronation Oath asking the Queen whether she will lawfully govern and maintain the protestant religion, saying

‘Madam, is your Majesty willing to take the Oath’? The Queen answers ‘I am willing’. She then signs The Oath.

At this point the head of the Church of Scotland presented a Bible to her saying ‘This is the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the royal law; these are the lively oracles of God’.

**The Anointing**

The Anointing with holy oil is a sacrament by which the Queen is consecrated to be God’s ‘anointed servant’. Only then can she receive the ‘emblems of majesty’. It is the spiritual climax of the coronation.

The Queen, divested of her crimson robe and wearing a very plain white dress, walks to the altar. As she sits in King Edward’s Chair, four knights hold over her a rich canopy of ‘cloth of gold’. The Dean takes the Ampulla (an Eagle shaped vessel) and spoon from the altar,

pouring oil into the spoon. This holy anointing oil is made to a formula devised by Charles 1.

The Queen kneels as the archbishop anoints her on the palms of both hands, chest and head, as the Ampulla is held by the Dean of Westminster.

As her trust is a sacred one, her first responsibility is to God. She is set apart or consecrated by this Act of Anointing with the words ‘as kings, priests and prophets were anointed’. This is

based on the scriptural account of Samuel anointing Saul king in 1 Samuel 10v1, 24, 11v14.

After prayer the investiture takes place.

**The Investiture**

Here the Sovereign is invested with the royal robes and insignia, the most notable of which is the crown. She is robed with the white linen Colobium Sindonis and over this the Supertunica

of Cloth of Gold, a close fitting coat. She again sits on King Edward’s chair which has been used by all the sovereign’s of England since Edward I except Mary I and Mary II.

The golden spurs of chivalry are touched by the Queen and the Sword of State is replaced by the Sovereign’s Sword (the Jewelled Sword of State), which the archbishop lays on the altar.

After he has prayed, he gives the Queen the sword in her right hand and says ‘with this sword do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the Holy Church of God, help and defend widows and orphans, restore the things that are gone to decay, maintain the things that are restored, punish and reform what is amiss, and confirm what is in good order: that doing these things you may be glorious in all virtue….’.

The Queen is now invested with the Royal Robe (or Imperial Robe) and Stole Royal and

when she is seated again, the orb surmounted by the cross is placed in her right hand. As she

takes it in her hand the archbishop said ‘And when you see this Orb under the cross remember that the whole world is subject to the power and empire of Christ our Redeemer’.

After this the Queen’s Ring in which is set a sapphire surmounted with a ruby cross – the Wedding Ring of England – is placed on the fourth finger of the Queen’s right hand to indicate her being wedded to her people

**The Crowning**

The Crowning is the spectacular climax of the Investing. With the Queen seated on King

Edward’s Chair the King Edward’s Crown is taken from the altar by the archbishop. There is complete silence as he raises the crown high in the air and then lowers it reverently onto the head of the Queen.

The congregation then shout ‘God save the Queen’ three times and peers put on their coronets. The archbishop, declares; ‘God crown you with a crown of glory and righteousness, that having a right faith and manifold fruit of good works you may obtain the crown of an everlasting kingdom by the gift of Him whose kingdom endureth for ever’. At this moment bells peel, trumpets sound and guns at The Tower fire a salute.

**The Enthroning and the Homage**

The Queen now sits upon a throne placed on a raised platform, bringing her into the full view of the assembled company for the first time. Here she receives the homage (the Oath of

Fealty), of the Lords Spiritual (the bishops and archbishops), the Lords Temporal (Dukes,

Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts, and Barons), and the congregation - representing the people of the realm. They come and kneel before her saying, ‘ I do become your liege of life and

limb….’.

The communion service resumes and the Queen receives the bread and the wine.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving for the Queeen's platinum jubilee

God of all nations,
on this day of Pentecost we praise you for the power of your Holy Spirit,
equipping each of us for our life's work.

We celebrate especially the wonderful work of our Queen,
who has put loyalty before her royalty through all the ages of her reign.

And who, day by day, has served you her God and Christ her King with humility, resislience and grace
Thank you for all she is and all she has done to your glory.

Amen

**Reading**

**Acts 2.1-21; John 14. 8-17, 24-27**

This week has been dominated by the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. Marking 70th years as monarch, every community is awash with bunting and special events, a four-day party, and the media is full of coverage marking this historic occasion.

Today a pageant formed of 6,000 performers will progress along a two-mile route in central London to an estimated 100,000 spectators. Nicholas Coleridge the co-Chairman of the event has said it will be ten times the scale and polish of the Lord Mayor’s Show (of the City of London), with elements usually seen during Trooping the Colour, the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony, and the Notting Hill Carnival. What an event it will be, taking inspiration from, and surpassing many events which normally dominate the year in their own right!

Yet, this awesome scale and celebration is not a patch on the extraordinary scenes of the Holy Spirit descending at Pentecost on the first disciples. With “violent wind” and “tongues of fire” they could “speak in other tongues [languages]”. This defining event was also a fulfilment of the prophet Joel – that the people will have the Spirit poured out upon them and proceed to prophesy, see visions, and pass on this message to the world.

Just as Her Majesty was filled and bestowed with the duty of Monarchy, this week we celebrate 70 years of her fulfilling this great task. It is in this way that we should view Pentecost, that whilst recognising that this New Testament event far surpasses any earthly jubilee – the Holy Spirit fills the people, and they are to bring this gift to fulfilment by preaching and spreading the word with the skills and insights which they have been given.

Three things I want to make a connection between the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and Pentecost, the Coming of the Spirit. Wind, Partying and Anointing.

**Wind**

The Queen is known to have great sense of Humour. She also loves horses, as the Archbishop of York referred to in his sermon yesterday at the Service of Thanksgiving. He couldn’t offer her any tips for the Derby yesterday but said she was still in the saddle and had stayed the course.

There is an old story in which Ronald Reagan was visiting England and travelling in a horse drawn coach with the Queen. They were smiling and waving to the crowds when one of the horses broke wind violently and the two were forced to continue acknowledging the crowds with wrinkled noses enduring a terrible smell.

“I do apologise Mr President,” said the Queen. To which Reagan replied: “That’s quite alright your majesty, I thought it was the horse.”

The story itself isn’t true. It’s an old joke and if you search the internet, you can find it everywhere with Reagan changed for Bush, Clinton, and lots of other foreign dignities. But what’s probably funnier is the fact that apparently the Queen finds this joke hilarious and tells it herself. Several people report that she likes telling this story and it’s something of a family favourite. Apparently, all it takes is for someone to say “I thought it was the horse” for the whole family to break up laughing.

The description of the Holy Spirit as coming like the violent rushing of wind is a vivid image. The Spirit is sent by the Father and the Son – a divine gift. Twice in five passages in John chapter 14, the Father is specified as the sender (14.16, 26), and twice Jesus is the sender (15.26; 16.7). The stress is not coincidental. All the stratagems in the world cannot entice of force the Spirit’s hand. No manipulation of a group, no set form of prayer, no outstretched hands. The promise to the Church of God’s presence always remains at God’s initiative, and yet it is a promise of God, and one on which the church can rely.

If the Spirit is like the wind – it blows where she wants – the spirit is elusive and not controllable. All you can do is wait, wait for the wind, then have the courage to hoist your sails and go with the flow. Resisting the wind takes a lot of hard work and ends up breaking you. It ends up breaking churches as well. God is uncontrollable. You can’t tame the Spirit.

But with the wind behind you – what power. Like riding the Derby winner with royalty cheering you on!

**Partying**

When the Spirit came on those first disciples people thought they were drunk – they were so filled with joy.

We have had the unprecedented gift of two consecutive bank holidays, making it four days of partying. The front page of Private Eye has Boris Johnson having his weekly audience as Prime Minster with the Queen.

She says to him: ‘Are you still here’?

He says ‘Yes, your majesty. Then he adds: ‘Are you looking forward to four days partying?’

The Queen replies: ‘It’s a work event.’

I hope you have been able to get to at least one joyful event this weekend.

It is frightening what one little misprint can do. A Pentecostal church in London was advertising a celebration service and accidentally miss-spelt the word ‘begin’ on its promotional leaflets by putting a space in the middle of it. So the leaflet read:

The service will be Spirit led. It will be gin with prayer!

I’m sure that service would be a real tonic for all who attended!

On the day of Pentecost, the day the church was born, the day the spirit came; on lookers thought the followers of Jesus had had a bit too much to drink – wine, gin whatever. They were all merry with the Holy Spirit. The story of the coming of the Holy Spirit in Luke’s Acts of the Apostles is an ecstatic and weird experience, beyond the comprehension of onlookers who can only conclude that the disciples are drunk.

Even today people don’t understand. They would prefer to get drunk on wine or gin or whatever substance they can, rather than get drunk on the Holy Spirit.

Don’t get me wrong – I like a beer myself – it’s just that thank God and by God’s grace – I don’t need a drink to get me through the day, make me happy, prove my masculinity or drown my guilt and sorrows.

Binge drinking is a worrying trend today especially among the young. Its always been seen for a long time as a cool thing to drink, and drinking alcohol is society’s conformed pattern for ‘having a good time’ and even the Bible says wine gladdens the soul. But peace and happiness are much deeper and more soulful.

In John 14 the term parakletos, rendered in our Bible as advocate is used for the Holy Spirit.

***25****“All this I have spoken while still with you.****26****But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.****27****Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

An alternative translation of this word is counsellor or comforter. Advocate perhaps gives the impression of legal overtones pleading your case – and elsewhere in scripture Paul describes how the Spirit pleads to God in our prayers of intercessions. The text however defines parakletos by adding ‘to be with you forever’. The Spirit as parakletos is God’s powerful and nurturing presence, given to the disciples in the wake of Jesus’ departure.

Like a counsellor, whose sustaining influence has no termination. Another word is comforter. Comfort is a strange and wonderful thing. Have you noticed when someone is deeply distressed, after a bereavement or a tragedy, the fact of having other people with them, hugging them and being alongside them, gives them strength for the next moment, then the one after that, then the one after that? Outwardly nothing has changed. The tragedy is still a tragedy. The dead person won’t be coming back. But other human support changes our ability to cope with disaster. It gives us strength.

When the spirit is spoken of as the ‘comforter’, the counsellor, the advocate, this kind of extra strength to meet special need is in mind. It is a felt presence. God is with me, there is no need to be afraid, instead be at peace. A peace the world cannot give.

**Finally, Anointing.**

The first disciples were anointed by the Spirit.

The Queen felt the hand of God on her as she succeeded to the throne.

During her first Christmas message in 1952 – six months before her crowning – she said to those listening: “I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day – to pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve him and you, all the days of my life.”

The early broadcasts, after that first plea for prayer, were not particularly religious but instead included accounts of the Queen’s year, family milestones such as weddings and christenings, and general good wishes. But at the turn of the century, all that changed. On 31st December 1999, the Queen marked the millennium with the prime minister, Tony Blair, and other public figures in the Millennium Dome. As the crowds sung along to ‘Auld lang syne,’ her expression suggested she wasn’t very impressed by the New Labour ‘Cool Britannia’ vibe.

Twelve months later, on Christmas Day 2000, she spoke to the nation, pointing out what she felt the millennium was really about: “Christmas is the traditional, if not the actual, birthday of a man who was destined to change the course of our history. And today we are celebrating the fact that Jesus Christ was born 2,000 years ago; this is the true millennium anniversary.”

She went on to speak very frankly about her own faith: “For me, the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ’s words and example.”

It was a turning point. Her words are said to have elicited a huge postbag of approval and since then, the Queen’s message – always broadcast at 3pm on Christmas Day and always her own words – has been marked by a willingness to express her staunchly held Christian beliefs.

Her statement, published on 6 February this year, the 70th anniversary of her accession. It said, simply: “Your servant, Elizabeth.” It indicated a monarch who recognizes not the glamour and power in her role but duty and service. For that as a nation we are thankful

Christian faith is not so much a willingness to follow and believe in Jesus. It is also to receive Christs Spirit and be taken up, anointed in Christ work.

The Biblical template is repent, believe receive.

Repent – which literally means change direction – follow the way of Jesus. Believe – give your heart and will to following Jesus. But finally, and crucially receive: be open to receive the spirit of Jesus, to empower you lie the wind to give you energy and determination to be a follower of Jesus, the joy and peace of knowing, spiritually, Christs presence and guidance.

I was talking to Kathryn Palmer, one of our members this week. She gave me permission to share with you how she came to faith.

No one in her family had a Christian faith but as a social worker she found herself at work with a boss and a colleague who were both Christians. They would often talk about their faith to each other with Kathryn present. Sher got irritated so often by them and would often engage in heated arguments. Often, she would find a Christian pamphlet or book on her desk for her to read. She found the zealousness of these Christians a little overbearing at time.

Life was good for Kathryn at this stage in her life, her mid-thirties. Married with children, a house, and a career. She had everything but still lacked something.

One night she read one of the Christian evangelistic tracts that her colleague had ‘helpfully’ left for her. There was a prayer inviting the reader to repent, believe and receive. Kathryn prayed the prayer. Nothing happened immediately. There was no violent wind and tongues of fire. But over the next few days she changed. Welling up within her she felt the joy and peace of the spirit of Jesus. She knew she had been anointed and her life would never be the same again.

The Queens life was never the same again on 6th February 1952 when her father died. 70 years later she has remained faithful to her calling and service and to her Lord.

What about you? Have you not only repented, and believed but also received? Do you need a fresh anointing?

If you are feeling lost and defeated and needing the power of God to help you – pray for the coming of the Spirit

If you need comfort and strength – pray for the coming of the Spirit

If you have lost our way in the Christian faith – needing new direction, needing reassurance – pray for the coming of the Spirit.

If you are concerned for our friends and family and the people in the world who live lives of unease, or ignorance – pray for the coming of the Spirit.

If you need the peace that the world cannot give –pray for the coming of the Spirit.

Whilst we celebrate and remember the greatness of this Platinum Jubilee – know that whatever pomp and ceremony and jubilation you see – the event of Pentecost far surpassed this in majesty, awesomeness, and defining nature.

May you have your own coronation and anointing by the Spirit.



Prayers of intercession

God of love, we thank you for the Queen’s Jubilee.

As we reflect on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations across this country today and during the past week, we pray for the Queen. Thank you for her 70 years on the throne and for all she means to so many people across this nation and worldwide. Thank you for her love for you and her willingness to share her faith. As the celebrations come to their end, draw close to her. May she know the ongoing power of your Holy Spirit.

God of love, be with our Queen on this Jubilee weekend.
Holy Spirit, hear us.

God of love, we thank you for the half term holiday.

As children head back to school and many of us return to work after the extra bank holidays, we thank you for the time off. Thank you for the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, and to enjoy the change to usual routines. We pray for those who have used the half term holiday to continue revising for GCSEs and A Levels; be with them in their final exam weeks, help them to keep going, to remember what they’ve learnt, and to feel calm and confident.

God of love, be with us all as the holiday weekend comes to an end.
Holy Spirit, hear us.

God of love, we thank you for this Pentecost Sunday.

As we recall the events of that first Pentecost, may we be people who know the power of the Spirit in the everyday. As we remember the disciples in the upper room, may we be people who come together to pray and seek your will in this world. As we recall the Spirit falling in tongues of fire,  giving the disciples new words and new languages, may we be people who communicate well with others, able to explain your love and compassion for them and those they love. As we read Peter’s sermon and hear again how he unpacks your Word, help us to read the Scriptures and learn more of its truth.

God of love, be with us this Pentecost Sunday.
Holy Spirit, hear us.

God of love, we thank you for the church.

Pentecost is a time to celebrate the birth of the church, and so today we pray for our own church community. We pray for our leaders and for all who are part of our church family.
*Think for a few moments about anyone in our church family who needs our prayers today and in a moment of quiet pray for them...*

We think also about the worldwide church, particularly where the church is struggling with persecution. Renew your people in their faith and refresh them with the power of your Spirit.
*Think for a few moments about the world-wide church and anywhere that needs our prayers today and in a moment of quiet pray for that part of the world…*

God of love, bless your church across the world.
Holy Spirit, hear us.

God of love, we thank you for our world.

There is so much going on in our world at the moment. We think in particular of the conflict in Ukraine, and once again ask for peace to come quickly. We also pray for the climate crisis, for those with power to effect change that they seize the moment and do what they have promised to do. Help all of us to seek and embrace solutions, even when it means we have to change what we do.

But on this Pentecost Sunday, we are also thankful for the world we live in as it is. At the start of June, and with the summer months ahead, we pray that your Spirit will bring hope; and that we, as your church and your people, would be bearers of the hope we have in you.

God of love, bring your Pentecost hope to our world.
Holy Spirit, hear us.



A prayer for all ages together

Divide people into two groups; one will make wind sounds, and the other fire (e.g. crackles). The ‘wind’ group reads the first half of the prayer, accompanied by sounds from the ‘fire’ group – then vice versa for the second half.

Holy Spirit, fire of God,
warm us with your love;
Holy Spirit, fire of God,
burn up the rubbish in our lives;
Holy Spirit, fire of God,
set us on fire with love for the world.

Holy Spirit, wind of God,
blow on us gently;
Holy Spirit, wind of God,
blow on us powerfully;
Holy Spirit, wind of God,
send us out to live for others.



A sending out prayer

*(with open hands)*
Fill me, Lord; fulfil your purposes for me;
(with open arms)
fill us; fulfil your purposes for us;
*(moving arms to create a circle horizontally)*
fill all things; fulfil your purposes for all things –
*(moving hands over the surface a large imaginary globe)*
in all places, for all time. Amen.