

Sunday Worship Service – May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

Worship words from *Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*¹ marked with *
Other material from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Reflection

Call to Worship *

God speaks to us

in the riches of creation.

God speaks to us

in the stories of Jesus.

God speaks to us

in the lives of other people.

God speaks to us

in words and ways that we can understand.

God of fire and beauty

warm us.

God of peace and justice

disturb us.

God of wind and wonder

amaze us.

God of Pentecost

kindle your love in our lives.

Gathering Hymn “*Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*” #401

1. **Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew.
It’s your leading that we’re needing, help us to follow you.**

Refrain: **Come, come, come, Holy Spirit come.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit come.**

2. **Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.**

(Refrain)

3. **Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.** (Refrain)

¹ Contents of book © the individual contributors; Compilation © 2006 Ruth Burgess, published by Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, UK

4. **Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.** (Refrain)
5. **Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.** (Refrain)

Thanksgiving for Baptism - Living Water ²

Opening responses (while pouring water):

Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives,
as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike
**refresh us with your mercy,
who know our own injustice.**

As a stream flows steadily on,
defying all the odds of stone and water,
**flow over every boundary and border
that separates us from each other.**

As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us,
renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.

As we were once held in the waters of our mother's womb,
hold us in the power and peace of your abiding presence.

Affirmation:

God who created heaven and earth,
and founded the land on deep waters.

God who flooded the earth
and gave us a promise.

God who divided the water
and set the people free.

God who leads us beside still waters
and gives us new strength:
We affirm our faith in you.

Jesus who walked on water
and calmed the raging sea.

Jesus who turned water into wine
and baptises us with water, spirit, love.

Jesus who washed his disciples' feet and washes our souls clean:
We affirm our faith in you.

² from *Wild Goose Big Book of Worship Resources*, © 2017 The Iona Community, Published by Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, UK.

Holy Spirit who is poured out
and comes to us as water and fire.
 Holy Spirit who is strength and power
and fills us with your living water.
 Holy Spirit who is gentleness and love
 and is God's gift to each of us:
We affirm our faith in you.

Choir Anthem *"In Heavenly Love Abiding"*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the second chapter:

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying,

"Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!"

They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other,
 “What does this mean?”

Others jeered at them, saying,
 “They’re full of new wine!”

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared,
 “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my
 words! These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine
 o’clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet
 Joel:

*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
 Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions.
 Your elders will dream dreams.
 Even upon my servants, men and women,
 I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
 I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
 and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.
 The sun will be changed into darkness,
 and the moon will be changed into blood,
 before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

*To a church torn by divided loyalties, in which some members were evidently
 claiming superiority on account of their spiritual gifts, the Apostle Paul insists
 that the Holy Spirit creates unity in diversity. We need one another’s diverse
 spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the
 common good. A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians, the 12th
 chapter:*

So I want to make it clear to you that no one says, “Jesus is cursed!” when
 speaking by God’s Spirit, and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the
 Holy Spirit. There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are
 different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but
 the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the
 Spirit is given to each person for the common good. A word of wisdom is given
 by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the

same Spirit, faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person.

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation “Word of God, Come Down on Earth” #510 (verses 1,3)

1. **Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav’n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

3. **Word that speaks God’s tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us,
Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

Gospel Reading: John 7:37-39

The holy gospel according to John, the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted,

“All who are thirsty should come to me!
All who believe in me should drink!
As the scriptures said concerning me,
Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.”

Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn't experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn't yet been glorified.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Living Water, Empowering Flames

Hymn of the Day "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" #582

1. **Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising those of earth to thrones on high;
living, life-impacting Spirit, you we praise and magnify.**
2. **Holy Spirit, ever living as the church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the church the mind of Christ;
you we praise with endless worship for your gifts and fruits unpriced.**
3. **Holy Spirit, ever working through the church's ministry;
quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving, setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending, you we worship and extol.**

An Affirmation for Pentecost *

We join in an Affirmation for Pentecost:
We believe in as loving God,
whose Word sustains our lives
and the work of our hands in the world.

God is life.

We believe in God's Son amongst us,
sowing the seed of life's renewal.
He lived with the poor to show the meaning of love.

Jesus Christ is Lord.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of Life,
making us one with God,
renewing our strength with Her own.

The Spirit is Love.

Prayers of Intercession *

Come, Holy Spirit. Come, loving Jesus. Come, glorious God.

Come among us and hallow our prayers: Each petition will end with “God in your mercy” and the congregational response “hear our prayer.”

A brief silence

We pray for the places in our world where there is poverty, fear and war. May all who recognise your name hear you calling them to be peacemakers, God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for young Christians – young in years, young in faith. May the faith we pass on to them be a reflection of the work of your Holy Spirit in our lives. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our local churches. May all who meet together to celebrate this Pentecost experience your presence and be filled with power and joy. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill, or in trouble, or in any kind of need. We pray for those in hospital or hospice care (*names*). We pray for those who have died, for those who are safe in your love. Comfort those who mourn, the family and friends of Linda Lewis and Walter Euteneier. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, our hopes, our questions, our needs, our dreams: Come, holy and life-giving Spirit, renew our lives with love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bright God of life, burn in our lives, warm us with courage and joy, keep us in the mystery of your glory all the days of our journey home. **Amen.**

Offering / Offering Prayer ³

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Let us pray:

Holy one, you create all that is. Your breath sustains every living thing. In your creation, see your love of diversity. In our community, we celebrate the multitude of Spirit-filled gifts. Grateful for your care, we bring these gifts. May they spread your love to all people. Amen.

³ *Offering Prayer* written by Mary Petrina Boyd, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁴

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God,

Breath of life and Fire of love:

with a mighty wind you brought creation into being,
and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom.

We praise you for the gift of your Son,
who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,

he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,
and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit,
we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal:
anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love,
that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

⁴ From **With One Voice** © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

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.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion Instructions & Invitation

Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)

Hymn during Communion “O Holy Spirit, Power of God’s Creation” *

(Words by David Fox – hymn tune #558)

1. **O Holy Spirit, power of God’s creation,
 hope of the world, the Christians’ inspiration,
 spark deep within us fires of re-creation;
 Spirit, renew us.**
2. **Creative Spirit, wake us to each other;
 with your caresses touch us as a lover
 that in your presence we may hold each other;
 Spirit, renew us.**
3. **O Holy Spirit – in your life awaking,
 our life hid in you, in your power partaking –
 let your transforming breath, our torpor shaking,
 come and renew us.**
4. **Come then, O Spirit, help us share the vision
 of all creation healed of its division,
 in God united and in Christ forgiven;
 Spirit, renew us.**

Hymn during Communion “One Bread, One Body” #496

Refrain: **One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
 one cup of blessing which we bless,
 and we, though many throughout the earth,
 we are one body in this one Lord.**

1. **Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
 woman or man no more. (Refrain)**

2. **Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.** *(Refrain)*
3. **Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all..** *(Refrain)*

Communion Blessing

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

Prayer after Communion *

Holy Spirit, we pray, take hold of us, through bread and wine received, claimed by the Son: self's castle storm, our lives transform, with Christ's own nature make us one. Amen.

Benediction Song "May the Grace of Christ Attend Us" (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

A Pentecost Blessing⁵

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created, breathe into you the life he gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen

⁵ *A Pentecost Blessing* from **Common Worship** published by Church House Publishing. Posted on the Church of England website