

THE HAVEN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP SHEET. MAY 31st 2020
PENTECOST SUNDAY.

Link for videos for songs

All songs can be accessed via this link to a YouTube playlist:

- [Haven CC - Sunday 31-05-2020](#)

The Day of the Lord

²⁸ “And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

³² And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved;

for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be deliverance,

as the Lord has said,

even among the survivors. Joel 28:32-32

Song: Holy Spirit We Welcome you

Song: Reckless Love

Song: Adoration

Opening Prayer:

Whirlwind Spirit of God,
Roar through our timidities and fears,
Shake the foundations of our ill-placed securities,
Sweep away the cobwebs of our apathy,
Blow down the walls that separate us, one from another.

Then into all our empty spaces, breathe
re-strengthened courage to challenge injustice,
renewed belief in the urgency of our vocation,
revitalised passion to change our lifestyles,
re-dedication to speak only words that build and unite.

Let gentle breeze and still small voice
become in us today
mighty wind and loud proclamation.
Make of us a Pentecost people! **Amen**
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Song: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

The Reading.

Acts 2:1-13

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

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

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"
¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Prayer of confession.

Merciful and gracious God,
Our hearts cry out for you to make us whole again.
Even as we celebrate that you have come to dwell within us,
We have sinned against you and abandoned your commandments.
We have been jealous, possessive, ambivalent, and impulsive.
We have not heeded your Word and we have not cherished your covenant.
Help us to glorify you in all times and in all places.
As our souls thirst for your living waters,
Quench our needs and satisfy our love.
That we may come back to you and be sent forth
To fill the world with your mercy and grace.
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ,
And by the power of the Holy Spirit who is at work within us,
Amen.

The Sermon.

(contributed by Rev Martin Knight)

Today is a very special day in the life of the Church, it's not just because today is called Whitsunday or the Feast of Pentecost ... it is however related to what happened on that first Whitsunday. The sending of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus?

No, in many ways its simpler than that, it's something that we all have once a year – when you're young you look forward to them but as you get older you would rather forget them. Yes I'm talking about birthdays ... today is the birthday of the Church. On this day over 2 thousand years ago inspired by the fullness of the Holy Spirit Peter preached and 3,000 people responded and were baptised, thus the Church was born.

As a father I remember our children when they were young and their excitement as their birthdays came near and their thoughts turned to the gifts they desired. In fact I remember receiving gifts when they were born and the birth of the Church I believe that God reminds us of two gifts and blesses us with a third.

The first reminder we can find in verse 32, "God has raised this Jesus to life". No I am not talking about resurrection or salvation but life. Take a look at Genesis 2:7 "...the Lord God formed the man from dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." Let me ask you a question, where did God create the dust of the ground, in fact where did God create anything? Peter Meadows in his book Beyond Belief argues that in the beginning there was only God (Genesis 1:1) then the only place God could create anything was within Himself as God was the only thing that existed. Creation is a gift not only from God but also of Himself, He breathed His life into us, or we would all be mounds of dust. Life is a gift of God, but that gift is Himself as well.

The second gift reminder is that of redemption through Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptised, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." The gift of salvation, thanks to the sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ who freely gave His life as an atonement for our sins. A priceless gift of God, that we can freely receive, 'so that no one can boast.' (Eph2:9). Eternal life is a gift of Jesus Christ but also Jesus is the gift himself.

The gift given, as you have probably guessed, is the Holy Spirit. "All of them were filled the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:4) As you can imagine this caused onlookers to be "amazed and perplexed" (Acts 2:12) "Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." (Acts 2:13). I find it fascinating that three times in the New Testament when there is reference to being filled with the Holy Spirit that alcohol is mentioned (Luke 1:15; Acts 2:13 & Eph 5:18). I find myself asking why this connection with drunkenness is there?

Do you remember the last time you got drunk; I mean really drunk not tipsy? I hope it was before you accepted Jesus as your Saviour, but we all slip up from time to time and we find forgiveness at the cross. I remember getting well and truly drunk at a Young Farmers event, to be correct I actually remember the ribbing I got from my mates when we next met up. When we get drunk we can lose control of our movements, speech and mind, some can be happy drunk others can be aggressive, one doesn't act as themselves. I hope I am not offending anyone talking about drunkenness, let us remember that all scripture is God

breathed and it is His illustration in Eph 5:18 “Do not get drunk on wine ... instead be filled with the Spirit.” Nowhere in scripture are commanded to lose control to a substance but we are commanded to give control to a person, the Holy Spirit, and have an awesome life.

Yes, let us remember that the Holy Spirit is a person, He can make His presence felt like wind and fire but to think of Him as such makes Him nonpersonal. The Holy Spirit has will and intelligence and feeling and knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think and hear and speak and desire the same as any person has. If we had an extended time together this morning we could study scripture and the creeds regarding the Holy Spirit and come to the conclusion that the Holy Spirit is God existing in another mode of being, He is Spirit; just as Jesus is God existing in another mode as a human being.

Therefore the Holy Spirit has all the same characteristics of the Father and the Son. We have no problem accepting the Father and Son as loving, kind, faithful, gracious, patient plus all their other attributes but Satan has opposed the doctrine of the Spirit-filled life about as bitterly as any other doctrine there is. He has confused it, opposed it, surrounded it with false notions and fears. He has blocked every effort of the Church of Christ to receive from the Father her blood bought legacy. Do not believe Satan, we have nothing to fear regarding the Holy Spirit, do you believe Jesus’ words in John 3:16 regarding eternal life? Yes, then I hope you trust and believe all that Jesus has said including John 14:15 “I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counsellor (Holy Spirit) to be with you forever”

The Holy Spirit is a gift that keeps on giving, the disciples received the Holy Spirit in John 20:22 and then filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4 & 4:31 as one old preacher put it we have one baptism of the Holy Spirit but many fillings. Think back to Eph 5:18 we can get drunk, but we don’t stay drunk, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit, but we don’t stay filled, if we did then why did the disciples have to be filled again in Acts 4:32?

How do we go about being filled? Firstly, repent and seek forgiveness, to be cleansed (Acts 3:38); secondly ask (How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:13) (“You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” John 14:14); thirdly desire it, I believe that the disciples reminded God of Jesus’ last words (Acts 1:8) daily in prayer and as they did so their desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit grew stronger. Finally have faith and be patient, remember it took 40 days from Jesus’ promise in Acts 1:8 to the disciples being filled for the first time in Acts 2:4.

REFLECTION

When did you last speak in tongues or share a prophecy?
(Tongues and prophecy are gifts of the Holy Spirit)

When was the last time you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit? Witnessing, Healing etc (experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit)

Are you overflowing with love, joy and peace? Overflowing with the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
(experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit)

If you have answered no to the first two questions don’t worry too much, when we seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit we need to have the right attitude, we should be seeking the Holy Spirit’s presence not His power.

How much do you trust God the Father? Are you willing to surrender all to Him? Are you willing to give control to the Holy Spirit?

If case we are afraid to surrender, Jesus is careful to reassure us, "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? (Luke 11:11-12). There is no sting in the tail when God gives a gift. To surrender control to him is to surrender to a God who has selflessly and freely laid down His life for us. He is trustworthy.

Song: Rule in My Heart

Intercessions

Almighty God, thank you for the gift of life, thank you that you have breathed life into us. Thank you for the gift of salvation and the gift of your Holy Spirit and that by your Spirit you fill us and anoint us to be your hands and feet in this broken world. Thank you that you are Immanuel, God with us.

Holy Spirit fill us once again with your presence

Lord, we bring to you our brothers and sisters in the persecuted church at this time when they face even greater persecution and discrimination because of their faith in you. We pray your protection over them and your provision for them. May they know a fresh infilling of your Spirit that they will be able to withstand the persecution, be certain of your presence and love for them and to be able to boldly proclaim the gospel so that many will turn and surrender their lives to you.

Holy Spirit fill us once again with your boldness

We lift to you the poor and marginalised within the world today. Those who live in refugee camps or displacement camps, the homeless or those whose home is a rubbish dump. Lord help us to see how we can stand with those who live on the edge of society and serve those who are so vulnerable. Lord, equip and empower those who are going to assist those in India and Pakistan who have been affected by Cyclone Amphan. Protect them and help them rebuild their lives.

Holy Spirit fill us once again with your compassion and merciful justice

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (from Psalm 104:30)

We pray for your creation. Lord we ask for mercy where we have done so much that has adversely affected the environment. We pray for those communities who are already vulnerable and seem to experience the greatest impact of global warming and pollution. As world economies are rebuilt and as the world starts to come out of lockdown we pray for your wisdom and strategies to move forward without doing further damage to the environment.

Holy Spirit fill us once again with your creativity

We bring to you our Government. We ask for your spirit of wisdom and discernment for all those who are making decisions as to how and when to open up the economy. We pray that the 'R' number will remain below 1 and that people will slowly be able to return to work and that families will be able to meet again as families. Most of all Lord we pray that you will bring an end to this crisis by your sovereign power. We pray that you will draw a line in the sand and say 'No more' and destroy the power of the Covid 19 virus.

Holy Spirit, move in power

We ask that you will put your shield of protection around schools, teachers and other staff and the children who might be returning this week. May you give headteachers strategies as to how to keep children and staff safe and may there be a sense of your peace. Guide them as to how to help children come back into a learning environment and to stay safe.

Holy Spirit, pour out your wisdom

Lord, we ask for your compassion and healing for all those we know who are sick, especially those with Covid 19. We pray for their families, that they will know your presence and peace. Thank you that Martin feels able to slowly start a phased return to ministry. We pray your strengthening and full restoration for him. Please minister to him and keep him safe under the shadow of your wing.

Holy Spirit pour out your healing power

In Jesus name: **Amen.**

Closing Song. For I'm building a people of power

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Lord send us out in the transforming power of your Spirit
To bring your love to those around us
Praising and glorifying you
Walking in the freedom of your Spirit
And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with us all now and for ever
Amen.