

Dorset & South West written Service 5th June
Feast of Pentecost. By Rev. J. E. Michael Barber
Please use your own bible for the scripture readings.

Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday, is regarded by many as the Birthday of the church - therefore a day for rejoicing and looking forward to the growth of the church. It is also a time for honesty, self examination, and recognition that we need the Holy Spirit to withstand all the works of Satan and play our part in the spread of the Gospel.

Take a quiet time of self examination, confession and resolution before asking for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit

Almighty God, Our heavenly Father I have sinned against you and against my friends and neighbours in thought, word and deed and in what I have done or failed to do because of my selfishness and lack of care. I am sorry and want to change and live according to your will so that others can be blessed by my life and actions. I ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

Hymn Hps. 283

Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire
Thou the anointing spirit art
Who doest they sevenfold gifts impart

Thy Blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace;
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to our but One;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song:
Praise to thy eternal merit
Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Scripture reading Acts. Ch 2 v1 - 21

Can you really imagine the scene then in Jerusalem- People from all over the then known world who were devout Jews and expecting to have to communicate in Hebrew (their common language as Jews). when suddenly they heard people praising God in all their own national languages.. How would you react today in such a situation ? I have not been in a group when this has happened but have often heard people speaking in tongues. If there has been an interpreter present then I believe it was for the benefit of the whole or some of the group. If no interpreter present then it was for the speaker or one person or may be linked to a gift of healing.

To what extent does God give us gifts if we do not want them? Some people fear that if they receive empowering gifts from God that they will then have to do things that humanly they do not want to do- remember god only wants to give what is good for us and others. Trust God and let us now ask for His gifts.

Hymn HPs 295

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me
Break me, melt me. Mould me, fill me
Spirit of the living god fall afresh on me.

Reading Acts 13 v 1-5

They were a nice group in Antioch and probably felt that with such a group there was a good chance of establishing a strong church, but God had other ideas - it was while the apostles were praying that God spoke to them and broke up the group. It was more important to spread the Gospel than for an established group to remain happy with their situation.

How many church congregations today will concentrate on keeping what they have rather than expanding or establishing a new congregation somewhere else..

The spread of the gospel is very important because if present Christians do not do it who will ? Then when we die there will be no church. God gives us the spirit to enable us to do it.

I have discovered that God does have plans for us and then may have to give us the gift of tongues or some other spiritual gift to enable us to fulfil His plan for us.

I never asked for any of my ministerial appointments - someone else told me what God wanted me to do. It was much later that I discovered the gift of tongues. Someone else always seemed to know where God wanted me before I did.

Hymn Hps.437

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but thou art mighty;
Hold me by thy powerful hand,
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore

Open thou the crystal fountain
Whence the healing streams shall flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through
Strong deliverer be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordon
Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hells destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises I will ever give to thee.

Now take a time of intercession:

There are so many people in need of the support of
Christian prayer.

We can each fill in names under these headings:

There are our family and close friends

Friends in the church where we worship (or have done if it
has closed)

Church missionaries and their supporters

The local community where we live - neighbours.

People we see at work

Local councillors and officials - those in Government

Anyone you know who is in trouble in any way.

Close this time of worship by resolving not to forget about
God but to live our whole life based on His teaching.