

Reflection for Pentecost

'All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' Acts 2.12.

Our reading from the Acts of the Apostles is central to the life of the church, its understanding of itself and of God. Yet it also raises many questions and we can feel some sympathy with the eye-witnesses who ask, 'What does this mean?'

As the Holy Spirit fills the house where the disciples are meeting, it is described like a violent wind and tongues of fire. These images may bring to mind



the wind of the Spirit hovering on the waters of creation and the purifying power of the judgement of God. Those who are touched by these flame-like features are empowered to proclaim God's mighty works and deeds of power. Yet to some it sounds like drunken babbling!

I have often heard recounts of this passage saying that once Peter is inspired with holy speech, he immediately addresses the crowd, but this omits an important feature. It is the crowd who respond: first to the wonders which have occurred in the house by gathering outside and then by asking the question with which I opened this reflection: 'What does this mean?'

Peter presents a case that the whole earth has entered a new era as foretold by the prophet Joel. Later in his speech he recounts the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and provides the crowd with a model for their response.

What do the events of Pentecost mean for each of us? How might we respond?

Rev'd Sarah

(image Pixabay)

Codes for Zoom No further Zoom services planned at the moment.

Meeting ID:
Passcode:

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 12.06.2022 Trinity Sunday

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31
NT Romans 5: 1-5



GOSPEL John 16: 12-15

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St Thomas, Exeter

5th June 2022

Pentecost

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by Bring And Share lunch.

12.30pm Baptism of Connor Cram-Macpherson.

Tuesday 7th June

7.30pm House Group. See Ian for details.

Wednesday 8th June

10am Holy Communion BCP

Thursday 9th June

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots with Breast-feeding support

10.30am Knit & Natter (see Notices)

Friday 10th June

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 11th June

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers.



Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 2.1–21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's

great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 8.14–17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 14.8–17[25–27]

Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ['I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Post Communion

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Knit and Natter Summer 2022 In June, July and August we will meet in St Thomas Pleasure Ground or at 19 Maple Road according to the weather, every Thursday from 10.30am to midday. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon.

St Andrew's, Exwick. Please note that Fr David and Rev Sarah are covering some of the Sunday morning services at Exwick after the retirement of Jerry Bird.

The response to the prayers this week:

Spirit of the Living God
Response: **Fall afresh on us.**

Prayers for the Platinum Jubilee

A grace for a shared meal

Lord Jesus, you feasted with friends and found joy in those around you.
Bless us now as we share this food, celebrate this day and remember our Queen,
and all those she serves in your name. **Amen.**

Prayers of praise and thanksgiving

Loving God, we thank you for the opportunity to come together to celebrate the life of our Queen.
For her courage, her dignity, her sincerity, WE PRAISE YOU.
For her dedication, her resilience, her faith, WE PRAISE YOU.
For all the ways she has put service before self, WE PRAISE YOU.
And we ask your blessing on her and all those she loves
at this special time, and always. **Amen.**