

## Pentecost Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

(Liturgy arranged by Daniel Farnsworth)

### Introit – TIS 465 Father in heaven

Father in heaven, grant to your children  
mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing,  
love to unite us, grace to redeem us -  
Father in heaven,  
Father our God.

Jesus, Redeemer, may we remember  
your gracious passion, your resurrection.  
Worship we bring you, praise we shall sing you -  
Jesus, Redeemer,  
Jesus our Lord.

Spirit descending whose is the blessing,  
strength for the weary, help for the needy;  
make us your temple, born a new people -  
Spirit descending,  
Spirit adored.

*Words by D. T. Niles by permission Christian Conference of Asia*

### Welcome

May the worship bless you

### Call to Worship

O God, open to us today the sea of your mercy and water us with full streams  
from the riches of your grace and springs of your kindness.  
Make us children of compassion and heirs of peace.  
Kindle in us the fire of your love  
Stir our tongues to sing your praise  
Strengthen us in your service  
And bind us close to you and to each other.

(Modified from *Iona Community Worship Book* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1993), p. 103.)

### Land prayer

The same Spirit that we come to worship today was already in the land, revealing God to the people. The same love that was revealed in Jesus sustained the first peoples of this land. We pay tribute to them, especially the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, for their care for the land, and we pray for ever deeper reconciliation, ever deeper makarrata, in this land of Australia.

### Hymn – TIS 474 Gather Us In, YouTube DisciplesNet Church 2016

<https://youtu.be/f44OvSt26TU>



### Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit,  
 you are the Lord, the giver of life;  
 with the Father and the Son we worship and glorify you:  
**Come to us now, Spirit of God.**

Holy Spirit,  
 you were there at the creation, before time began;  
 your presence fills the whole universe:  
**Come to us now, Spirit of life.**

Holy Spirit,  
 you have spoken through the prophets of old;  
 by their witness the Word of God has never been silent:  
**Come to us now, Spirit of wisdom.**

Holy Spirit,  
 you surrounded the waiting church with the wind of Pentecost;  
 you gave life and breath to announce Christ's gospel:  
**Come to us now, Spirit of power.**

Holy Spirit,  
 you came upon the first Christians as a holy fire;  
 you set their hearts ablaze with devotion to the risen Lord:  
**Come to us now, loving Spirit.**

Holy Spirit,  
 you pour out your rich and varied gifts;  
 you call us to bring forth your fruit in our lives:  
**Come to us now, gracious Spirit.**

Holy Spirit,  
 you are the Spirit of truth, the Counsellor;  
 you lead us to the truth that sets us free:  
**Come to us now, Spirit of God,  
 and renew Christ's holy church.**

## Prayer of Confession

Holy and living Spirit,  
we seek to follow in God's ways but too often we are exhausted by the journey  
and we grow tired of doing good. Forgive us, and come change our hearts.

Breathe new life into our tired imaginations;  
give us eyes to see your artistry and ears to hear your truth.

Breathe new life into our fatigued compassion;  
enlarge our love for all who are suffering, poor, or lost.

Breathe new life into our weary discipleship;  
make us poor again, that we may remember we are rich;  
give us your cross again, that we may remember your gift of life.

[pause]

Let us rise with new energy and never tire of God's goodness and blessings  
for his Spirit is with us along the way.

(Modified from Deverell, *Gondwana Theology*, p. 95.)

## Readings

### Romans 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> 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!<sup>[a]</sup> Father!' <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness<sup>[b]</sup> with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' <sup>9</sup> 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"? <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me<sup>[a]</sup> for anything, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep<sup>[b]</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,<sup>[c]</sup> to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup> 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<sup>[d]</sup> you.

<sup>25</sup> 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate,<sup>[a]</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.

*Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.*

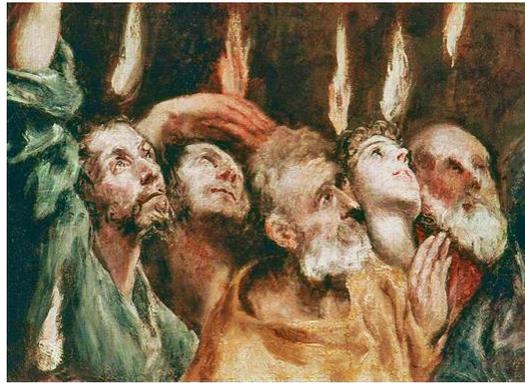
## Young at Heart - Rev Peter

A surprise Birthday cake

Recognising Pentecost remembers the birth of the church

## Sermon - Rev Tina

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen



Pentecost (detail) by El Greco

I've been listening for the past twelve months. Listening to people's stories and concerns about change. Change in the church. Fears about not being alive by the time we complete our journey of coming together.

We have begun the journey of finding a common vision and mission, of finding a way to use our resources in a way that gives our church a future. Our resources are each one of us with all our giftedness, love, skills, connections in the community and personal wealth.

Resources for our community include current money and buildings we hold in stewardship for the church now, and in the future. Resources that allow us to worship and be community together and reach out into the community with mission and activities that include justice for those who are marginalised. Justice for our local and remote communities such as in Northern Territory. Justice for people living in third world conditions throughout the world. Justice that can find a way to preserve our environment for future generations.

This is an ambitious list. Clearly beyond the capacity of one person, but not beyond the capacity of a community, who are united in Christ. Perhaps exploring how to network and form partnerships with organisations, charities and community groups will help us.

We are on a journey to discover how God wants us to make a difference and contribute in a way that makes the world a better place for all where we are witnesses to God's love in the world.

Yet, there is fear and a desire to make things happen overnight. We all know the church doesn't change overnight.

Each church has a unique journey. In my first placement, Eltham Montmorency went through the process of discerning a mission and found it was already happening within their community and they expanded their Op Shop with more volunteers and moved into the church hall. Then they had a consultation in 2015 to decide upon what to do with their resources. I heard the other day things worked out differently from their initial decision but worked out well for church and community.

Often God has other ideas and, as time goes by, the community and local landscape and demographics may change. Eltham Montmorency is in an area where there are many young families. Churches in the area may well consider their needs. Perhaps when the census results start coming out in the coming months, we could check out the demographics for our area and consider them when exploring our mission in the world.

In many ways we need to be sensitive to the stirring of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and be flexible. We cannot rush things in the church because it's more about God and relationships with God and one another in the church. It's more about how we care for and share with one another as we journey together. It's more about living out Jesus' love command and witnessing to others where we share our faith stories with one another.

I have heard people say don't rush change or you will get bad change, or, do it well if you want it to become permanent and life-giving or build a strong foundation. In our case Jesus is the cornerstone and each of us is a living stone. We are the church, and we are built on relationships with one another. I don't know about you, but as I age, it is taking more time to form new friendships and relationships because I don't have a lot of free time. It takes time to

build friendships and relationships. I find caring which includes being there when someone needs me and helping and sharing, which includes eating together and offering hospitality, are two of the main ways of getting to know one another and building relationships and community. By caring and sharing we are living out Jesus' love command.

Today's readings from Romans and from John's gospel remind us of who we are in our relationship with God. Romans reminds us we are children of God, led by the Spirit. Because of this we can say: *Abba Father*. We have not been given the Spirit of God to fall back into fear. We are not called to be afraid. We are called to be bold.

John's gospel tells us to have faith in Jesus and in the power of prayer. Nothing will happen if we don't rely on prayer. Prayer keeps us in relationship with God. We cannot do things in our own power. It is when we surrender our own power and rely on prayer, that God will do amazing things through us. Today's gospel has Jesus saying to us, if we ask him to do something in his name, he will do it. It's hard to get our heads around this promise. What do we ask for? Does it need to be God's will?

Jesus put this promise into our context as the people of God. He promises to send the Holy Spirit upon us to teach us everything we need to know, so we are guided in our prayers and decisions. We don't pray or decide alone. We do so as the community of Christ. We discern a way forward together and remain flexible so we can be guided by the Spirit in our discernment of God's will. The journey may not turn out as we planned. It will turn out as God planned, where we are blessed.

### Hymn – TIS 675 Shine Jesus Shine – Darlene BAZ 2016

<https://youtu.be/uaTwx0ehbvM>

### Offering

May the Holy Spirit be upon us now to cleanse our hearts,  
to hallow our gifts, and to perfect the offering of ourselves  
for love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Uniting in Worship 2 (Sydney: Uniting Church Press, 2000), p. 274.)*

### Communion Liturgy – Rev Peter

All who are thirsty and all who are hungry, come! Eat, drink and be filled;  
Come! Feast at the table of God, without money and without cost;  
Come and receive freely the Living Water and the Bread of Life!

***Our souls are thirsty, O God, and we come;***

***Our spirits hunger, O Lord, and we come;***

***Feed us, nourish us and strengthen us;***

***Satisfy us with real food, and real drink;***

***Prepare for us a table, that we may always be fed by Your hand. Amen.***

*Pass the peace in a Covid safe way*

### Prayer

Life-Sustaining God, Every living thing in the universe owes its life to You;  
All things, seen and unseen, have come into being because of Your creative word;

***You deserve to be praised and honoured, O God,***

***For You have made all things well.***

Seeking and Loving God, Your gift of life is ours to enjoy, You made us in Your image,  
You breathed the breath of life into each one of us;

We live because You spoke our names.

***You deserve to be praised and honoured, O God,***

***For You have made us to be Your children.***

Caring and Nurturing God, Your energising Spirit flows through every creature, and through  
each one of us;

You have filled the world with Your Presence and Your Voice, You have filled our lives with Your compassion; And we are fed by Your bounty.

***You deserve to be praised and honoured, O God,  
For Your abundance is always shared,  
and our souls are always fed by Your hand. Amen.***

We come to the table of Christ,

***With gladness and thanksgiving, for the good things we find here.***

We come to the table of Christ,

***With praise and celebration, for the Kingdom that has welcomed us in.***

We come to the table of Christ,

***With hungry hearts and thirsty souls,***

***longing to be satisfied with the finest food at the Banquet of the Lord.***

And so we honour You, O Christ, Lord of the Feast, for when your time came to face the cross, you gave us this meal to remember you, and the meaning of Your life and death. At supper, with Your friends, You took bread, and after You had given thanks, You broke it and gave it to them saying:

***Take this and eat it. This is my body, broken for You.***

After the meal, You took the cup, and once You had given thanks,

You gave it to them saying:

***Take this and drink it. This is my blood poured out for You.***

And so, in memory of You, we eat and drink;

In thanksgiving for Your gift of life, we eat and drink;

In openness to Your grace, we eat and drink;

***And we will continually celebrate this meal,  
until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. Amen.***

*Communion is shared.*

### **Closing Prayer**

***We thank You, O God,***

for the nourishment and strength we have received at Your table.

***We thank You, O Christ,***

for the new life that we enjoy, and which we now take into the world.

***We thank You, Holy Spirit,***

for feeding our souls with this simple meal, and for equipping us to be Your hands to feed others.

***May Your grace, love and friendship surround us  
and flow through us all now and forever.***

***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

*Adapted from Food for the Road: Life Lessons from the Lord's Table © John van de Laar*

### **Prayers of the People – Derek Moore**

Let us come before God in prayer.

Today we pray for the nations of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa & Swaziland.

We are thankful for:

The rich biodiversity of plants & animals in this region.

The faithful witness of churches around the world during Apartheid and how people of different races and lifestyles have since come together.

The work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and others to bring healing from the past atrocities.

How South Africa has made antiretroviral drugs available to all with HIV and AIDS.

We pray for:

The provision of resources for the good of all, rather than their exploitation for the gain of a few.

More democratic & transparent government, at all levels, plus adequate resources and changed attitudes for the welcoming of refugees, in these countries.

In the Ecumenical prayer cycle, we pray for Mitcham Baptist Church and in our Presbytery for the Darebin North West congregation. Lord, please bless these faith communities and be with them in their worship and restricted outreach.

Bless all associated with Uniting Age Well's Manningtree program.

In the United States of America, we pray Lord that you can empower enough politicians to have the courage to change the gun laws, to stop ready access to military-style assault weapons, for example.

You are all invited to join me in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your Name.

Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

Now and forever. Amen.

### **Hymn – TIS 414 There's a spirit in the air**

**Isle of Man Methodist Church 2020**

<https://youtu.be/hNwfljTraFU>

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

As you go from this place

may the richness of God's spirit transform you

may the gentleness of God's spirit move you

may the warmth of God's spirit touch you

for today and for all days to come.

Amen.

### **Outro – TIS 468 We are your people Lord**

**John Burland 2021 from Gathered as your People Lord**

<https://youtu.be/RDzExJsJ7Og>

### **Pastoral Care Tips - Rev Tina**



## Soul Friends

John O'Donohue wrote in his book called *Anam Cara*, that we need a soul friend, *someone we can be ourselves with, where there are no masks.*

A soul friend accepts us and helps us accept ourselves. They are someone who we can feel safe with, understood and at home, where we are free to be open and honest. Soul friends can be a close friend we have known forever or a minister or they can be a spiritual director. A spiritual director is someone we see monthly, who listens to us talk about our God story and spiritual journey.

I've always had a spiritual director or mentor ever since I began praying as a young child. Spiritual directors spend years training and studying. Everyone can have a spiritual director or mentor. We are all on a journey where each one of us has a unique journey. You can find spiritual directors through Wellsprings Spirituality centre in Ashburton, 9885 0277 or Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual and pastoral formation in Malvern, 9890 1101. Fees may vary. I pay \$50 Wellsprings also offers quiet days, retreats and more.

<https://www.wellspringcentre.org.au/>

Why am I saying this? Because as we journey, we often journey through times of transitions and in-between times, or face times when we are at the crossroads or need to decide to close a door or open a door in our life. Having a soul friend to accompany us on the journey, who keeps our story confidential and is non judging and who we can spend time with, knowing we are being listened to as we talk about God, can help us.

Spiritual direction is not the same as pastoral care and yes, you can sit with Peter or myself and share in the same way. I'm just letting you know spiritual directors are not there just for ministers. They are there for everyone. They are a blessing I knew of, long before becoming minister and I'm just letting you know about them. Personally, I've found spiritual direction a bit like pampering the soul.