

Morning Worship St Johns Pentecost Sunday 24th May 2026 --9am.

This is a strange day in the lives of the disciples, here they gather yet again praying together and no doubt completely confused now and talking together as to how Jesus had come into the room miraculously offered them peace, showed them his crucifixion marks, he then breathed on them and said receive the holy spirit. This was on the evening of the resurrection. Then they witnessed his accession into the heavens for now he has gone completely from their sight, and they are still fearful of the Jewish leaders so are all together again in the upper room with the door locked.

I should imagine by now they are struggling to comprehend all that has happened and all that they have witnessed and are still waiting for the gift the promised helper.

So this is where it gets a bit crazy because all of a sudden they hear this mighty thunderous roaring wind that gate crashed into the upper room ,no warning sirens of a storm approaching like you would have today saying something like category 5 hurricane named “holy Spirit” approaching,no just a hurricane that brought with it fire, again no fire alarms ,or fire extinguishers near by and it rested upon their heads ,no singed hair or eyebrows just tongues of fire jumping around on their heads. But they remained calm. This wind was still roaring around the house and attracting a crowd of bewildered onlookers. Then the disciples led by Peter go out into the street and decided to preach to the people, but all of a sudden, they are talking in different languages to the crowd which must of not only shocked the disciples but also the crowds around them, with this crowd declaring them to be drunk.

Well, I don't know about you but that seems to me to be the wildest most chaotic house party ever to be thrown in history and by God himself.

I thought we had some wild parties but its safe to say no one ended up on fire ,even though we did have one where we had to take it back indoors due to a sudden heavy down pour that bowed the roof of the gazebo ,maybe the drink helped a few to speak in another slurred tongue but somehow the consensus was that they were Drunk .

But I should imagine this bewildered crowd seeing the disciples appear with tongues of fire on their heads was enough to wonder what is going on here, this mighty wind still going around them ,then the disciples start talking and all of a sudden they sound drunk, But Peter steps up and tells them we are not drunk on cheap wine but we are drunk on the Holy Spirit but then they start to realise Hey he isn't drunk for I can understand him in my native tongue .

Languages of Greek, Latin, and Egyptian all being spoken at the same time.

The Holy spirit wasn't sent to us as a gentle calming feeling to lull us to sleep but as a fire poured into us to stir us up, to send us out in his power to go and speak about the radical life changing language of God's love.

If this was now today here in this beautiful church of St Johns and the Holy spirit gate crashed and rested upon our heads with tongues of fire, would we still be sat here listening to the preacher calmly?

I think not it would see us looking at each other wondering what the heck is going on and most probably seeing us rushing at each other trying to put each other's flames out, then dashing outside to see what damaged had been done by this mighty wind, thoughts of how much is this going to cost to put right, how many trees have been brought down.

But imagine going outside still with these flames on our heads perhaps ducking our heads so as not to set fire to the building ,but outside the building is unchanged and the trees are still standing ,then we exchange words and realise we are all talking the same language but it is much clearer as we recognise the language of love god is speaking to us.

It has been known for this road to get very busy with people passing can you imagine their faces when they can hear this mighty wind raging around the outside of St Johns? It would surely make them stand still and wonder, then we all rush out with flames on our heads, They probably think the boiler has exploded but then we start speaking to them and they hear the language of love being spoken to them through us as God supplies our words, would they walk on by ? would they want an explanation as to what they have heard and seen ? It would have certainly shaken them up and most definitely be a talking point at dinner later. We have given out the invitation to come and join us.

Are we still going to give out that invitation without visual aids of rushing winds and tongues of fire?

So today let us receive this outpouring of the Holy spirit, let it challenge us, let it shake up our lives, let this fire burn up all our worries our grudges even our comfort zones. Let us go out into the streets here around this our parish and openly share the good news of Jesus with so much passion and Joy that makes others look at us and say, “what on earth is this person so excited about?”

We can also take it out into the world wherever we may go.

Let ourselves be crazy, spirit filled Christians with a fire that can be seen in our actions our words and our deeds.

God is marching on, don't let yourselves be left behind you are invited to his party, just come as you are, no fancy clothes ,for he clothes you, bring your neighbour too, yes even the one you fell out with because they parked across your drive once to often or other such grudges you may have ,now is the time to forgive. Bring the homeless person, the person who maybe sick of body mind or spirit.

Some of these people may need help to understand what this holy spirit is, I for one also need help to explain it, I try to describe it as a gut feeling when you are in a situation that is hard to grasp a weird sensation that eventually brings about the truth of the matter, I cant see the holy spirit, I can't taste it, all I know is once I start to pray to the Holy spirit, our helper steps in and intercedes for me he puts my requests to god then just like the disciples in the upper room I wait for God to answer them. I ask the holy spirit to be with me in times of joy and in times of grief when nothing makes sense.

So will you receive this invitation to this loud wild party that God is giving for you today? will you receive the holy spirit? will you allow the fire to sit upon your head and will you take up the spirits challenge and go tell the good news to all the streets roundabout and the world.

Let us Pray

Holy Spirit stir us up today, disrupt all my comfort zones and send me out with a fire in me that helps me step into the unknown, find the courage to let go of old habits, and the strength to go forwards, accept your changes in me and lead me into all truth in the name of Jesus and of his holy spirit
Amen.