

### A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### CMP 241

Holy Spirit, we welcome You, Holy Spirit we welcome You!  
Move among us with holy fire as we lay aside all earthly desires,  
hands reach out and our hearts aspire, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

#### A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Acts 2:1-21

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, <sup>18</sup> your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. <sup>19</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>20</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>21</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

On this Pentecost Sunday, Christians all over the world recall the transformative events of Acts 2:1-21, where the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples, igniting within them a fire that would spread across the world. This passage is not just a historical account but a continuing call to action, unity, and renewal.

**Verse 2** 'A sound like a rushing violent wind' came from heaven to attract the multitudes to the small gathering of the apostles and disciples.

The arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is a moment of profound empowerment. Power shifts, to earth, to human beings... to all of us as believers. The disciples, who were once unsure and timid, begin to speak boldly in languages they did not know, reaching people of diverse backgrounds and nations.

**Verse 17** ‘ *In the last days I will pour out me Spirit on all people*’, In the Old Testament God’s Spirit was given in a restricted sense – to priests and various selected individuals for special purposes. The uniqueness of Pentecost was that now God’s spirit was poured out on all believers, sons and daughters, young and old. This event was a significant turning point in the history of the early church.

Pentecost was one of the three major Jewish festivals, the other two are the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. Pentecost fell fiftieth day after the Sabbath of the Passover. During this harvest celebration, the Jews brought to God the first fruits of their harvest in thanksgiving, expecting that God would give the rest of the harvest as His blessing. This particular Day of Pentecost was the day of first fruits of Christ’s church, the beginning of the great harvest of souls who would come to know Christ and be joined together through the work of the Holy Spirit.

May the Spirit not only remind us all of a miracle long past but also stir within us a fresh wind, prompting new understanding, deepening unity, and inspiring transformation that resonates through our lives and the lives of those around.

**Prayer** God of life and power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. **AMEN.**

### **Prayer of Intercession**

**Let us pray.**

Faithful God, fill us with the Holy Spirit, the giver of light and life. Strengthen us through the Holy Spirit, the fire of love. Let your Spirit come upon us and change us and all your faithful people, that we may live and work to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

We give you thanks for the working of the Spirit in our lives, for the gifts we have and the guidance we have received. We pray for those who serve us in the places we live, for our NHS, care workers, G.P.’s, shops, businesses, food banks, schools, colleges, and all who teach.

Finally,....take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort those in need we pray.

### **Pray the LORD’S Prayer**

#### **Peace**

*The Sirit of the Lord comes upon us to renew us and the face  
of the whole earth and to bring us into his peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

#### **A prayer of blessing**

*The Spirit of the living God, give fire to your faith, breathe new life  
into worship, give new power to your witness, in Jesus’ name  
**AMEN***