

Transformation – NOW!
Pentecost

Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of God,
fill our emptiness with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit of God,
fill our darkness with your light.
Come Holy Spirit of God, fill our weakness with your power.
Come, Holy Spirit of God,
make us aware that we are in your presence
and you are in us. **Amen.**

Come down, O love divine

sung by St Martin's Voices

Come down, O love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light

shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Discendi, amor santo Bianco da Siena (died 1434)
Translated Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

Bible Reading: John 14: 8-17 (NIV)

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Reflection:

Help me to know the peace of your Spirit

by Eddie Askew

Lord. they're not easy.
the demands you make.
You come into my life
bringing joy and freedom and peace.
And it feels good
But that's only the beginning.
Because along with that
you ask for commitment.
For loyalty. Discipline.
For all my time and energy.
My abilities, to be used in your work.
I'm no longer my own, but yours.

I never know what will happen next
on the road you've shaped for me.
I only know you make demands.
For some it's martyrdom. Suffering.
For some it's publicity. Or politics.
Maybe that's a kind of martyrdom
for those who do it honestly.
For most of us
it's just the struggle to keep our balance
as we walk along the footpath of faith.

I can't see very far ahead.
Maybe that's just as well.
If I knew what was coming,
good or not so good,
I'd only worry,
and try to change it.
Help me, Lord,
to put one step in front of the other
as I follow your lead.
I know you can.
Because wherever I go, you've already been.
Wherever I go, you are already there.
And with me on the journey.
It's good to know that, to experience it.

And Lord, help me to find the joy
that comes with answering your demands.
Help me to live the freedom
that comes from walking in your love.
Help me to know the peace
of your spirit.

Breathe on me, breath of God

sung by St Martin's Voices

Breathe on me, Breath of God
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Edwin Hatch (1835-89)

Prayers

The Gift of Friendship

I will ask the Father.

And he will give you another Friend
to help you and to be with you forever.

The Friend is the Spirit of truth.

John 14:16-17

**Holy Spirit,
we treasure your friendship;
your advocacy on our behalf.**

Holy Spirit, precious friend,
we praise you for your comfort in times of pain;
for your counsel in times of confusion;
for your strength in times of weakness.

We thank you for your help
when circumstances overwhelm;
your constant presence with us
when others fade from our lives.

**Loving Spirit,
Your friendship brings joy to our hearts;
Your perfect companionship moves our souls
to wonder and to praise.**

Generous God,
we cherish the gift of your Spirit;
our perfect friend
who draws us to Christ. **Amen.**

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Joy in God's love

O God, the hope and joy of all who trust in you,
we pray for those who do not yet know you.

May they learn of your great love for them,
and find their hope and joy in you.

This we ask in the precious name of Jesus.

Amen.

*Kerry Ginever, St Mary's Mothers' Union,
New Plymouth, Aotearoa, New Zealand
from Mothers' Union Summer of Hope*

Mary Sumner's personal prayer

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. **Amen.**

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O thou, who camest from above

sung by St Martin's Voices

O thou who camest from above
The fire celestial to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up the gift in me—

Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Dismissal

God poured out his promised Holy Spirit
on the day of Pentecost.

You have been baptised with the Spirit and with fire.

May his tongues of flame
burn out all evil from your hearts,
fill you with his love and peace,
and give you the gifts of his Spirit,
and a voice to praise him for ever.

Amen.

from Patterns for Worship
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Thank you for joining in with Thursday Prayers.

Choral music: The Church of England St Martin in the Fields

Material: as stated

Theme music: Catherine Hilton

Theme image: Aarn Giri on Unsplash.com

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Thursday Prayers next month will be on 14th July 2022
- Christ is our Rock