

Pentecost

The Church of Scotland
Sunday 31st May 2020

Hosted by Martin Fair
Moderator of the General Assembly

Right Rev Martin Fair

'I rejoiced when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!
But where to when the house is shut?
Into the world, for the whole earth belongs to the Lord.

This is Pentecost. Today we give thanks for the gift of the Spirit. So, let us worship God and let us go into all the world.

Rev Jonathon Fleming and family (Cumbrae l/w Largs: St. John's)

Dad, I made the cake you asked for.

Oh brilliant. Great, come on, girls, come on in. Party time! All right, I think I've got everything. I've got birthday candle, for my lights I've got party poppers and I've got a balloon as well, right girls, we're all sorted.

Whose birthday is it?

It's the church's birthday.

How can a building have a birthday?

The church is people, not a building.

Holly's right, it's not the building we're celebrating, it's the church, that's not just 100 years ago, we're celebrating the church's birthday and it's a time called Pentecost. And at Pentecost we remember the day that the church really got started and that, and on this day, over 2,000 years ago, the disciples, and a whole bunch of people were in a room. And suddenly, there was this wind that came through the room and they realised that it was the Holy Spirit that was in the room with them, giving them the tools and the knowledge of how to do the things that Jesus had asked them to do.

Do you remember a couple of weeks ago, when we were in church, we talked about Jesus saying that He would leave us something, the Holy Spirit, after He left, remember that one? So, Holly, can I have the balloon a minute? Think of that balloon, it's, just now it's not much of a balloon is it? It's lifeless, it's not getting anything in it, but when you blow in it, it suddenly has power and purpose and that's a bit like the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit gives us the power and the purpose to do the things that God wants us to do. Then, if you imagine a birthday candle, the disciples suddenly saw that there were tiny, little flames above each of their heads in that room, as well as the Holy Spirit being in that room. And they knew at that point that they had work to do. And that work's still going on 2,000 years later, yes, in buildings, but all over the world. Because people believe that the

Holy Spirit's giving us everything we need to be the church wherever we are. So let's get our party poppers, right, you ready?

So there's only one thing left to do then, let's sing "Happy Birthday".

Right, let's go for it. One, two three.

♪ Happy birthday to you ♪ ♪ Happy birthday to you ♪ ♪ Happy birthday dear Church ♪ ♪ Happy birthday to you ♪

Hip, hip--

Hooray!

Hip, hip--

Hooray!

Hip hip--

Hooray!

Praise - I am the Church, You are the Church - Rev Jonathon Fleming and family

♪ I am the church ♪ ♪ You are the church ♪ ♪ We are the church together ♪ ♪ All who follow Jesus all around the world ♪ ♪ Yes, we're the church together ♪ ♪ The church is not a building ♪ ♪ The church is not a steeple ♪ ♪ The church is not a resting place ♪ ♪ The church is a people ♪ ♪ I am the church ♪ ♪ You are the church ♪ ♪ We are the church together ♪ ♪ All who follow Jesus all around the world ♪ ♪ Yes, we're the church together ♪ ♪ We're many kinds of people ♪ ♪ With many kinds of faces ♪ ♪ All colours and all ages, too ♪ ♪ From all times and places ♪ ♪ I am the church ♪ ♪ You are the church ♪ ♪ We are the church together ♪ ♪ All who follow Jesus all around the world ♪ ♪ Yes, we're the church together ♪ ♪ At Pentecost some people ♪ ♪ Received the Holy Spirit ♪ ♪ And told the Good News through the world ♪ ♪ To all who would hear it ♪ ♪ I am the church ♪ ♪ You are the church ♪ ♪ We are the church together ♪ ♪ All who follow Jesus all around the world ♪ ♪ Yes, we're the church together ♪ ♪ I count if am 90 ♪ ♪ Or nine or just a baby ♪ ♪ There's one thing I am sure about ♪ ♪

And I don't mean maybe ♪ ♪ I am the church ♪ ♪ You are the church ♪ ♪ We are the church together ♪ ♪ All who follow Jesus all around the world ♪ ♪ Yes, we're the church together ♪

Prayer - Rev Ruth Morrison (Clydebank Waterfront)

Good morning, everyone. On this Pentecost Sunday we are going to pray together. And in this prayer there is a response. And so when you hear the words, Spirit of the living God, if we all say together, **fall afresh on us.**

Let us pray. God of Pentecost, Today we praise you for a promise kept, A people filled, A church empowered to share the good news of Jesus. For the Spirit came, emboldening, encouraging, energising and equipping, loosening tongues and setting hearts on fire with the truth of Your love.

Spirit of the living God, **fall afresh on us.**

God of Pentecost, in these strange days, unfamiliar and unchartered, we confess to you the ways we have limited and stifled Your Spirit, and offer ourselves once again to you this day, praying that you would renew and guide us into the future.

Spirit of the living God, **fall afresh on us.**

God of Pentecost, filled and fired up, may we, Your church, trust in Your unchanging love, be open to Your Spirit at work in all our dreaming, praying, planning and serving, and be emboldened, encouraged, energised and equipped, to use our gifts for the growing of Your Kingdom, as we shine brightly and follow Your lead, confident that you are not only within us and beside us, but always in front.

Spirit of the living God, **fall afresh on us. Amen.**

Reading - Exodus 13:17-22 read by Rev William Boyle, New Parish Church, Port Glasgow

"When Pharaoh let the people go, "God did not lead them on the road "through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. "For God said, if they face war, "they may change their minds and return to Egypt. "So God led the people around by the desert road "towards the Red Sea. "The Israelites went up out of Egypt, ready for battle. "Moses took the bones of Joseph with them, "because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. "He had said, God will surely come to your aid "and then you must carry my bones up with you "from this place. "After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham "on the edge of the desert. "By day the Lord went ahead of them "in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way "and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, "so that they could travel by day or night. "Neither the pillar of cloud by day "nor the pillar of fire by night left its place "in front of the people." Amen.

Reading - Acts 2:1-4 read by Miss Ann Lyall, DCS, Glasgow

"When the day of Pentecost came, "all the believers were gathered together in one place. "Suddenly there was a noise from the sky "which sounded like a strong wind blowing, "and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. "Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire "which spread out and touched each person there. "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit "and began to talk in other languages, "as the Spirit enabled them to speak." Amen, and thanks be to God for these readings from His word.

Praise - Breathe on us - recorded by worship team at Irvine: Fullerton

♪ There is a shaking ♪ ♪ Let hearts awaken ♪ ♪ Our God is moving ♪ ♪
Forever changing us ♪ ♪ There is a trembling ♪ ♪ There is revival ♪ ♪ The
sound of worship ♪ ♪ So great and glorious ♪ ♪ Holy Spirit hear us now ♪ ♪
Breathe on us ♪ ♪ Holy fire fall ♪ ♪ Come and fill this place with Your presence ♪
♪ Like a rushing wind ♪ ♪ Send Your fire here ♪ ♪ Breath of Heaven breathe on
us ♪ ♪ Breath of Heaven breathe on us ♪ ♪ There is a shaking ♪ ♪ Let hearts
awaken ♪ ♪ Our God is moving ♪ ♪ Forever changing us ♪ ♪ There is a
trembling ♪ ♪ There is revival ♪ ♪ The sound of worship ♪ ♪ So great and
glorious ♪ ♪ Holy Spirit hear us now ♪ ♪ Breathe on us ♪ ♪ Holy fire fall ♪ ♪
Come and fill this place with Your presence ♪ ♪ Like a rushing wind ♪ ♪ Send
Your fire here ♪ ♪ Breath of Heaven breathe on us ♪ ♪ Breath of Heaven breathe
on us ♪ ♪ Lift up your hands and shout ♪ ♪ The Lord is with us now ♪ ♪ Lift up
your voice and sing ♪ ♪ He is Holy ♪ ♪ Lift up your hands and shout ♪ ♪ The
Lord is with us now ♪ ♪ Lift up your voice and sing ♪ ♪ He is Holy ♪ ♪ Lift up
your hands and shout ♪ ♪ The Lord is with us now ♪ ♪ Lift up your voice and sing
♪ ♪ He is Holy ♪ ♪ Lift up your hands and shout ♪ ♪ The Lord is with us now ♪
♪ Lift up Your voice and sing ♪ ♪ He is Holy ♪ ♪ Breathe on us ♪ ♪ Holy fire fall
♪ ♪ Come and fill this place with Your presence ♪ ♪ Like a rushing wind ♪ ♪
Send Your fire here ♪ ♪ Breath of Heaven breathe on us ♪ ♪ Breathe on us ♪ ♪
Holy fire fall ♪ ♪ Come and fill this place with Your presence ♪ ♪ Like a rushing
wind ♪ ♪ Send Your fire here ♪ ♪ Breath of Heaven breathe on us ♪ ♪ Breath of
Heaven breathe on us ♪ ♪ Breath of Heaven breathe on us ♪

The Moderator's Message - Right Rev Martin Fair

I love the hills and the mountains. And to be clear, I'm talking about the Scottish mountains. Why bother about the rest, when we've got the best! And some of those mountain areas of Scotland, I've become very familiar with through the years from repeated visits. Not least the Angus Glens and the mountains around them. I know them inside out, particularly Glen Doll and one of the Munros at the top of Glen Doll.

It's called Driesh, I've climbed it 19 times. I've been up it in the depths of winter and in the heights of summer. I've been up it in the middle of the night and in the day. I know its every turn and its every aspect. That mountain, I am so familiar with and I love it because of that.

But just as much, I love exploring new territory. Going to parts of the country I've never been to before. Yes, exploring, discovering, finding new landscapes. Now, when I go to new places, I'm much more dependent on my map and my compass for navigating. It's a comfort to me to be able to guide myself on the map. Or maybe I'm out walking and I come across a path or maybe some muddy footprints, and that's a great comfort too, to know that others have been here before you.

But what about if we're called to completely new territory? Where there is no map and compass to help us, to go to undiscovered country? The reality is that there's hardly a place on earth now that hasn't been discovered, I guess that's why I love reading so much about the early explorers. One of my favourite books is about the first Europeans to go to Everest and to try to conquer it. I love reading too about Shackleton and those who went to the Poles and to the Antarctic - endeavouring, seeking out. There's not much opportunity for that nowadays, but even still, we can take ourselves out of our familiar places. This is one of the best books I've read of late, it's called "The Call Of The Wild." It's about a man who went to live for a year in the depths of the Alaskan tundra and forest.

I wonder if perhaps that's what's being asked of us right now as the church? That we need to, yes, go beyond all that is familiar, to hear again something of the call of the wild, to go beyond what's known and dear?

For many of us this causes us all kinds of anxiety. We're far better when we know exactly what's happening. In terms of church, Sunday mornings, going down to our buildings, running our services according to patterns we've used for long enough, meeting together in our various groups and organisations and in the pastoral life of the church, visiting one another in our homes and so on.

So with everything being so different, we find ourselves very disorientated, not quite sure of the landscape, not quite sure of ourselves. Our deepest longing is to get back to what we know.

And all of this, we begin to get a glimpse into the experience of how it's always been for God's people. Think of those Israelites after crossing the Red Sea and after a period of time in the wilderness, it was so disorientating and so unfamiliar to them, the demands were so great they actually wanted to go back, even though it

would've been back into captivity! Or long before that, Abram. Listen to the beginning of chapter 12 of Genesis, "The Lord said to Abram, "'Leave your country, your relatives, "'and your father's home, "'and go to a land that I am going to show you.'" Of course he had no idea where that was, what it was going to be like, let alone how to get there. And then those first disciples when Jesus came to them, met them on the beach at Galilee, He asked them to leave everything that was familiar and to come with Him to become fishers of people. And then the apostle Paul and so many others, risking all for the Gospel. Even up until much more recent times of church history, missionaries from Scotland, like David Livingstone, going into unknown territory. Or what about Mary Slessor? Born in Aberdeen and raised in Dundee, and then off under the call of God to Nigeria and what a work it was she was involved in there.

Mission is still where it's at. The only difference is, we don't have to go anywhere. It starts right on our doorstep! Friends, we've got to rediscover that essential calling to mission. Here's the thing. It's going to take something of a makeover. Maybe much more than that, a reformation, for us to be in the kind of shape we need to be to be the church for mission and Scotland and beyond in the 21st Century.

For starters, we're going to have to learn to travel much more lightly. To lay down so much of the baggage that we're carrying. When I first started out in my hill walking journeys, I used to take everything with me. I had such big packs that I could hardly walk, never mind hike around and then of course I had to learn that you don't need the kitchen sink with you everywhere you go! Now I'm perfectly happy with just a small pack like this.

When Jesus called and sent His disciples, this is what He said to them. He sent them out two by two and He ordered them, "Don't take anything with you on the trip, except a walking stick. No bread, no beggar's bag, no money in your pockets, wear sandals, but don't carry an extra shirt."

What are we going to have to learn to lay down? What baggage are we going to leave behind us? And how are we going to find our way?

Like never before, we're going to have to trust in and depend on God. He's always been there, and He will guide us. "Your word, Lord is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Can we trust that to be true? God will lead us by His word and by His Spirit. And today we rejoice in the gift of the Spirit. The Spirit that has gone before God's people in every time and place, the Israelites through the wilderness, though they knew not that territory, had a pillar of cloud before them in the day and a fire by night. And those first apostles, trusting in the Spirit, knowing that at times, doors would be closed to them and at other times opened for them. And what about those saints of old, who first came to these shores of ours, bearing the Gospel, trusting in the blowing of the wind to bring them where God would have them be.

And now, will we be ready to go where God is leading us? Will we allow ourselves to be remade, remodelled into the kind of church God needs us to be now? Will we

allow for that reformation, for that revival? And at this time of Pentecost for the refreshing?

Will we pray, Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, let me walk upon the waters wherever You will lead me? Will we believe His word? This God is our God forever and ever. He will lead us for all times to come.

Church, this is our shot, this is our opportunity. Let's do it and let's do it in the name of the Father and the Son, and in the power of His Holy Spirit. Amen.

Praise - There is a Redeemer - Aberfeldy Morning Youth Band

♪ There is a redeemer ♪ ♪ Jesus, God's own Son ♪ ♪ Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah ♪ ♪ Holy One ♪ ♪ Thank You, oh my Father ♪ ♪ For giving us Your Son
♪ ♪ And leaving Your Spirit ♪ ♪ 'Til the work on Earth is done ♪ ♪ Jesus my
redeemer ♪ ♪ Name above all names ♪ ♪ Precious Lamb of God, Messiah ♪ ♪
Oh, for sinners slain ♪ ♪ Thank you, oh my Father ♪ ♪ For giving us Your Son ♪ ♪
♪ ♪ And leaving Your Spirit ♪ ♪ 'Til the work on Earth is done ♪ ♪ When I stand in
Glory ♪ ♪ I will see Your face ♪ ♪ And there I'll serve my King forever ♪ ♪ In
that Holy Place ♪ ♪ Thank you, oh my Father ♪ ♪ For giving us Your Son ♪ ♪
And leaving Your Spirit ♪ ♪ 'Til the work on Earth is done ♪ ♪ And leaving Your
Spirit ♪ ♪ 'Til the work on Earth is done ♪ ♪

Right Rev Martin Fair

We've sung thank you oh my Father for giving us Your Son and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on Earth is done. What is that work that we are called too, and that the Spirit of God will equip us and enable us for? How would you sum it up in seven words?

Overcoming all divisions: uniting everything in God
Revival of Church to rewire the culture
Replicate God's DNA within our human society
Giving People Confidence To Be Fully Themselves
Encouraging Us To Rest - Rely On Him
Renewing Our Passion For Joy In Jesus
Conviction Of Hearts For Jesus The Redeemer
Passing On Knowledge And Love Of Jesus
Fling Wide The Gates, Let Jesus In
Worship, Love, Sacrifice, Inspire, Share For Jesus

Bringing Jesus' Life Into Scotland's Everyday
Using Jesus' Example To Inspire Social Justice
Following Jesus' Example To Build Healthier Neighbourhoods
Build Love And Compassion Into Our Neighbourhoods
Carry The Message From Jesus The Redeemer
To Embolden Us Wherever God Puts Us
Church Of Scotland Has Left The Building
God's Energy That Humanity Can Grow Love
Revealing Jesus To People Of All Ages
No More Fear, Pain, Hunger And Loneliness
Show And Share God's Love In Jesus
Being God's Gentle, Challenging, Affirming Love Today.
On Earth As It Is In Heaven
Virus-Like Contaminating The World With God's Love
Jesus' Irresistible Grace, Surprising Service, Scotland Saved
As Father Sent Me I Am Sending You
Revealing God's Spirit, Through Living Jesus' Love.
Uniting The People Of God As One
To Open Arms In Love And Acceptance
Sitting With Grieving While Holding God's Light.
Make New Wineskins For The New Wine
Pray, Share, Serve God And Be Kind
Inspire In Us Creative, Compassionate, Transforming Christianity
Comfort And Sustain In Days Of Darkness.
Enabling Caring For Others In Jesus' Name
To Empower And Love Us, Inside Out.
Guiding, Comforting, Advocating For Jesus In Communities
Renewing God's Earth In Justice And Peace
Gifting People To Share Responsibility For Creation
Sweeping Away Injustice And Death With Life
Help Everyone And All Creation To Thrive
Breaking Boundaries Of Division Uniting Us In Love
Awaken, Develop And Sustain Faith In Jesus
Seeking Justice And Peace For All People
Creatively Reveal Hope By Engaging Tomorrow, Today
Actions To Show That God Is Love
Revealing God's Presence To All Everywhere Always
New Life! New Vision! New Power! Alleluia!
Love One Another As I Love You
In Quietness And Confidence Shall Be Your Strength

What would your seven words be?

What is the work still to be done for which God has given us the Spirit?

Prayer - Rev Fran Henderson (Shetland)

Let us pray. Spirit of God...

Who hovered over the waters of chaos and cradled all possible things,
Who filled our forms of clay with the very breath of God,
Who came down upon the uprising sun in white bird blessing,
Who swept through the Pentecost crowds with fire, with joy.

Spirit of God, breathe for us once again.

Breathe for those who cannot breathe, whose shallow breaths betray damaged lungs.

Breathe for those whose breath catches with grief breathe for those who are drowning in debt and driven with anxiety.

Breathe for those who hold their breath in fear.

As old certainties give way to new confusions, breathe deep, fresh air into the lungs of Your church. Fill us with energy, with resolve, with clarity of vision to meet the challenges of our time.

Spirit of God, in the name of Christ, breathe for us once again. Amen.

Praise - O breath of life - recorded by worship team at Chryston Church

♪ O Breath of life ♪ ♪ Come sweeping through us ♪ ♪ Revive Your Church with
life and power ♪ ♪ O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us ♪ ♪ And fit Your
Church to meet this hour ♪ ♪ O Breath of love, come breathe within us ♪ ♪
Renewing thought and will and heart ♪ ♪ Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us ♪
♪ Revive Your Church in every part ♪ ♪ O Wind of God, come bend us, break us
♪ ♪ 'Til humbly we confess our need ♪ ♪ Then in Your tenderness remake us ♪
♪ Revive, restore, for this we plead ♪ ♪ Revive us, Lord, is zeal abating ♪ ♪
While harvest fields are vast and white ♪ ♪ Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting ♪
♪ Equip Your Church to spread the light ♪

Blessing - Right Rev Martin Fair

And now, friends, let us go, trusting that God will guide us. And as we go, may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and forevermore, amen.

A sung blessing for the Church. - The People of God - Sung by Elaine Fair

♪ The Lord bless you ♪ ♪ And keep you ♪ ♪ Make His face shine upon you ♪ ♪
And be gracious to you ♪ ♪ The Lord turn His ♪ ♪ Face toward you ♪ ♪ And
give you peace ♪ ♪ The Lord bless you ♪ ♪ And keep you ♪ ♪ Make His face
shine upon you ♪ ♪ And be gracious to you ♪ ♪ The Lord turn His face toward
you ♪ ♪ And give you peace ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪
♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen
♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ May His favour be upon you ♪ ♪ And 1,000 generations ♪ ♪
And your family ♪ ♪ And your children ♪ ♪ And their children ♪ ♪ And their
children ♪ ♪ May His favour be upon you ♪ ♪ And 1,000 generations ♪ ♪ And
your family and your children ♪ ♪ And their children and their children ♪ ♪ May
His presence go before you ♪ ♪ And behind you and beside you ♪ ♪ All around
you and within you ♪ ♪ He is with you, He is with you ♪ ♪ In the morning, in the
evening ♪ ♪ In your coming and your going ♪ ♪ In your weeping, and rejoicing
♪ ♪ He is for you, He is for you ♪ ♪ He is for you, He is for you ♪ ♪ He is for
you, He is for you ♪ ♪ He is for you, He is for you ♪ ♪ He is for you ♪ ♪ Amen
♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪

Credits

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this service

Music

Rev Jonathon Fleming and family

Irvine: Fullerton worship team

Aberfeldy Morning Youth Band

Chryston Parish Church

Arbroath: St. Andrew's (with violins from Suzanne Butler)

Marcus and Trudie Ford

Prayers

Rev Ruth Morrison, Clydebank: Waterfront

Rev Fran Henderson, Shetland

Readings

Rev William Boyle, New Parish Church, Port Glasgow

Miss Ann Lyall DCS, Glasgow

Thanks also to:

Rosie Addis for BSL signing*

Matthew and Rachel McKenzie for blessing picture sequence

And with special thanks to Sanctus Media, for filming and production

* You may be interested to know that some congregations offer BSL signing of their livestream services every Sunday. These include Motherwell: Dalziel St. Andrew's and East Kilbride: Claremont

**MAY GOD BE GLORIFIED THROUGH
THE SERVICE OF HIS PEOPLE**