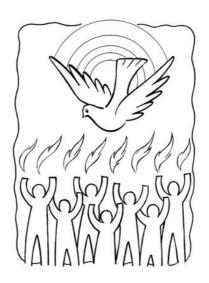


encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings & St Peter's, Riverslea

Provoking faith in Hastings communities



The Day of Pentecost 19th May 2024

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn:

Give thanks for holy wind and fire! Rejoice with heaven's hidden choir. Alleluia! Alleluia! See how the Pentecostal flame blazes afar God's threefold name. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing praises to our God Most High whose Holy Spirit prompts the cry Alleluia! Alleluia! Truly the Lord is present where faithful disciples meet for prayer. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give thanks that we, God's church, can know the Spirit's power, as long ago Alleluia! Alleluia! To hold, to heal and to uplift, to hallow every natural gift. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Join, then, this Pentecost, in praise for blessings poured in countless ways. Alleluia! Alleluia! And, to a world which suffers so let peace and gladness overflow. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

© David Mowbray, admin. The Jubilate Group Tune EASTER SONG

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you,' says the Lord; 'I will put my spirit within you and you shall live.'

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

We sit or kneel

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken hearted: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

Silence

God forgives you. Be at peace.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts. The word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Almighty God, at the feast of Pentecost you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel; send us out in the power of the same Spirit to witness to your redeeming love and draw all people to you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Ezekiel 37:1-14

The valley of dry bones, an image of Israel desolated by war and exile, is Ezekiel's vision of a renewed nation enlivened by God's Spirit.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Song to the Holy Spirit by James K. Baxter

Lord, Holy Spirit, You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks, Inside and outside the fences, You blow where you wish to blow.

Lord, Holy Spirit, You are the sun who shines on the little plant, You warm him gently, you give him life, You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves. Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are as the mother eagle with her young, Holding them in peace under your feathers. On the highest mountain you have built your nest, Above the valley, above the storms of the world, Where no hunter ever comes.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the bright cloud in whom we hide, In whom we know already that the battle has been won. You bring us to our Brother Jesus To rest our heads upon his shoulder.

Lord, Holy Spirit, You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn, Consuming us with flames of love and peace, Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Lord, Holy Spirit, In the love of friends you are building a new house, Heaven is with us when you are with us. You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor. Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the Father.

A reading from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit fills the apostles and empowers them to share the gospel with people of different languages.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel hymn:

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here. Come bow before him now with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground: Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around: He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant king of light; be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place: he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him; Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Words and music: David J Evans, tune: BE STILL

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 **Praise and glory to God.**

Jesus tells the disciples that his going away will mean the coming of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who will guide them into all truth.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ the Word.**

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

The Prayers of the People

We sit or kneel

During the prayers: Holy Spirit come, and, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Peace

We stand

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Preparation of the Gifts

The altar is prepared and the offerings of the people are presented as sing the Offertory Hymn

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that as you love, so I may love, and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure, until my will is one with yours, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, fulfil my heart desire, until this earthly part of me glows with your heavenly fire. Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die; but live with you the perfect life of your eternity.

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty.

All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.

The Great Thanksgiving

We remain standing, though feel free to sit if needs be.

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit, who came with signs from heaven to lead your Church into all truth.

In the power of the Spirit, and made ready with his gifts, we take the joy of the gospel into all the world.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After Supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Glory to you, Lord Christ; your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await; Amen! Come Lord Jesus. Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere now and forever. Amen.

The Communion

As Christ teaches us we pray

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The priest breaks the bread in silence.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to receive only the bread.

We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine.

Prayer After Communion

While we remain seated or kneeling, we sing:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me – Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Praise and glory to you creator Spirit of God; you make our bread Christ's body to heal and reconcile and to make us the body of Christ.

You make our wine Christ's living sacrificial blood to redeem the world.

You are truth.

You come like the wind of heaven, unseen, unbidden. Like the dawn you illuminate the world around us; you grant us a new beginning every day. You warm and comfort us. You give us courage and fire and strength beyond our every day resources. Be with us Holy Spirit in all we say or think, in all we do this and every day. Alleluia!

The Dismissal of the Community

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the word and works of God, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Easter Candle is carried to the church's entrance, reminding us that in the power of the Spirit, we now shine with the light of the risen Christ.

Final Hymn

Spirit of God most high, Lord of all power and might; source of our Easter joy, well-spring of life and light: strip from the church its cloak of pride, a stumbling-block to those outside.

Word of God's Spirit, blow! into the valley sweep. bringing dry bones to life, wakening each from sleep: speak to the church your firm command, and bid a scattered army stand.

Fire of God's Spirit, melt every unbending heart; your people's love renew as at their journey's start: your reconciling grace release to bring the Christian family peace.

Spirit of Christ our Lord, send us to do your will; nothing need hold us back for you are with us still: forgetful of ourselves, may we receive your gift of unity!

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Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. Alleluia. Alleluia! Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia!