

St Paul's Presbyterian Church online
'Partners in God's Mission of Love'
www.stpaulsnapier.org.nz

'We celebrate life in Christ. Join us on the journey'

Pentecost Sunday 31st May, 2020

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Anyoung haseyo, Malo elelei,

Ni hao, Ohayo gozaimasu, Fakaalofa atu!

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome!



Pre-service music:

Veni Sancte Spiritus (Taizé)
Come, Holy Ghost our hearts inspire

Lighting our Candles:

As we light these candles
We feel the wind of your presence
And see the flame of your hope
For us and for our world.

Call to Worship:

To a world dry and thirsty

God has poured out living water;

In a world fainting and breathless

God has stirred a mighty wind;

In a world cold and dark

God has ignited the flame of the Spirit

Let us worship for the Spirit has come.

The Spirit has come – hallelujah!

***Hymn: Come down, O Love Divine**

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

O let it freely burn, til 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 they become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

Reading: Acts 2:1 - 21

Telling our story:

The people gathered in Jerusalem on this day of Pentecost are listening to Jesus' disciples. Something to do perhaps... all gathered together from all around Asia and the Middle East all speaking different languages..... They get a surprise. They can easily understand what these people are saying!

Imagine a time when you have been listening to another language. Maybe you watch Te Karere sometimes...maybe a few words of Te Reo catch your ear and you smile as you recognise a Kia Ora or a Haere Mai.

Maybe you have experienced a time in another country where the language barrier was insurmountable. Maybe you just ended up frustrated or angry or just smiled in resignation.

Now imagine if all of a sudden you can understand Te Karere completely! Or if the French or German or Vietnamese was clear as crystal to you! Especially imagine if what was being said was Good News, great news, healing news.

Imagine if you, too, were perfectly understood by them...imagine if you were perfectly understood by God.... because you are!

Hymn: From the waiting comes the sign

From the waiting comes the sign,
Come, Holy Spirit, come
From the Presence comes the peace,
Come, Holy Spirit, come
From the silence comes the song,
Come, Holy Spirit, come
And be to us in truth,
The sign, the peace, the song.

In the burning is the fire,
Come, Holy Spirit, come;
In the spending is the gift,
Come, Holy Spirit, come;

In the breaking is the life,
Come, Holy Spirit, come;
And be to us in faith,
The fire, the gift, the life.

Prayers:

Holy One,
For all of the ways you speak to us –
in rushing wind,
in dancing flames,
in words we understand,
and in all that transcends language,
we give thanks.

Give us courage to speak your love,
everywhere we go,
to everyone we meet.
Amen.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Response:

Reflection:

***Hymn: O Breath of life**

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,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win,
Revive Your church in every part.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,

Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in Your tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of love, come breathe within,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win,
Revive Your church in every part.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and ripe?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip Your church to spread the light.

O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win,
Revive Your church in every part.

Prayer from Corrymeela

God of daily bread, God of simple pleasures: we ask for enough for today. Help us give ourselves the very thing we need: a walk to clear the head, a phone call that draws a familiar voice, a brief exchange with a passer-by, a gentle word of encouragement. These little things and their significance can be easily dismissed, but it is often the non-grand gesture, or an everyday routine, or an in-the-moment whim that reminds us that our God was always there.

Amen.

Benediction:

*Go with the strength you have.
Go simply,
lightly,
gently,*

*in search of love,
and the Spirit go with you.*

Hymn: *We are one in the spirit

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Bless the Lord, O my soul

Bless the Lord, O my soul
And all that is within me
Bless his holy name!
He has done great things
He has done great things
He has done great things
Bless his holy name!

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