

# SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 31 MAY 2020 (PENTECOST)

*Today we recall the disciples in the Upper Room, suddenly filled with power and wonder as the Holy Spirit came upon them like a rushing wind and flame, transforming their lives for ever. May we too ask God's Spirit to come to us and to overflow into our world, bringing his peace and his love and his healing. You might like to light a candle at home while you use this leaflet, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud.*

### Introduction

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

*We say together (or why not **sing!**) an opening hymn:*

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.

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;  
nor can we can guess its grace,  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes  
    his dwelling.

Let holy charity

The Lord is here: Alleluia!

**His Spirit is with us. Alleluia!**

We have come together as the family of God in this community. And especially we thank you, Lord, for your family, the Church; and for the gift of your Holy Spirit, to strengthen us and lead us into all truth. As we open our hearts to that greatest of gifts, help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart.

Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

## Hearing God's forgiveness

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gloria** *As God's forgiven people, we say together in thanksgiving*  
**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Readings** *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

**Collect (the special prayer for today)**

**First Reading: Acts Chapter 2, verses 1-21**

**Gospel reading: St John's Gospel, Chapter 7, verses 37-39**

**Reflection** *If you are using this prayer sheet privately, you may wish to read the Reflection on the Grapevine. In a moment of quiet, think what message this may have for you, and ask God to help you live it out in your life this week.*

## We declare our faith together

**We believe and trust in God the Father,**

**from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,**

**who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**

**who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God;**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

We pray to God to fill us with his Spirit: and that his Kingdom may come.

Generous God, we thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to equip us for the work that you have given us each to do. Inspire all who work to comfort and support others, whether family, friend or stranger. We pray especially for all hospital staff and carers combating the virus, all those working to find a vaccine and a cure, and all key workers and volunteers: and we pray for teachers and students as schools prepare to reopen.

*Lord, come to bless us*

***And fill us with your Spirit***

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to bring wholeness wherever there is sickness and sorrow, pain or anxiety, whatever its cause: and we pray especially for those on our own hearts..... Comfort and strengthen the weak, the sick and the dying, especially those facing death alone. Be with the fearful, and reassure the lonely.

*Lord, come to bless us*

***And fill us with your Spirit***

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit. May the love of Jesus fill the hearts of all who make decisions which affect our lives: all in national or local government; all those who organise the many services upon which we depend, and all world leaders. Give them always courage to act for truth and justice.

*Lord, come to bless us*

***And fill us with your Spirit***

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit. Keep us and your whole Church throughout the world, living and departed, in the joy of your eternal life, and hold us now and ever in your arms.

*Lord, come to bless us*

***And fill us with your Spirit***

*In a moment of silence, offer to God any other needs on your heart.*

***Merciful Father, accept these prayers, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.***

## **Sharing Christ's Peace**

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and has promised us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you. Alleluia!**

*As you say this, hold in your mind all who are joining in these prayers today.*

*If you are joining the Eucharist celebrated live via Zoom, do follow the priest saying the Eucharistic prayer, with the standard responses. While only the priest can physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, all will be invited to say this prayer of Spiritual Communion, inviting Jesus to enter your deepest being.*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**      *Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us*  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **We ask God's grace for the week ahead**

Heavenly Father, sustain us in our joys and in our anxieties. Enfold us in your peace in our waking and in our sleeping, and may we know your presence with us now and always: in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*We say (or sing!) a final hymn:*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That as you love, so may I love,  
And do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fulfil my heart's desire,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glow with your heav'nly fire.

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,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with you the perfect life  
Of your eternity.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore: and may we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Amen.**

*Christian Copyright Licence no 2292341. Common Worship, from which material used in this service is taken, is © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006.*