

**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**The Day of Pentecost
Wednesday 19 & Sunday 23 May 2021
10.30am**



**COVID-19
Services in Church and
online on our YouTube Channel**

Welcome to this service, where we are pleased to be able to gather together to worship God. We are only allowed to do this because precautions have been put into place to protect each other as sisters and brothers in Christ during the pandemic. Please follow the guidelines given on the order of service and verbally by the worship leader or welcomers.

Face coverings must be worn throughout the service.

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Please stand as the clergy enters.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Please sit

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

HYMN 120 – 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;
nor can we guess its grace, till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

'Discendi, amor santo' by Bianco da Siena (d.1434), trans. Richard F. Littledale (1833-1890) ©Copyright 2008 Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Anglican Hymns Old & New

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

We are truly sorry.

**Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please stand

GLORIA (*Said*)

**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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First Reading: Acts 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for

it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8.22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit,

because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

GRADUAL HYMN 62 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord

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.

*David J. Evans (b.1957) ©1986 Thankyou Music
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Gospel: John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. ‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong

about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Please sit

Does anyone remember Whitsun parades? I don't know if it was a thing in Scotland, but it certainly was in Wales.

Everybody in their Sunday best parading through the town, led by the local brass band, ending up at a park with picnics and games. I was looking through some old photos of my mum's this week and came across a photo of Mum, my brother John and me, dressed for the Whitsun parade. I think this must have been the second year I wore that Whitsun outfit, as it looked a little short in the arms and the

skirt. At least it wasn't a hand-me-down from my brother, which was the norm.

I'm not sure where the term Whitsun has gone. A brief look at Wikipedia tells me it stopped being a holiday in 1972 and became the Spring Bank Holiday instead but we all know that Pentecost continues.

There's no better time to celebrate the diversity of the Kingdom of God than on the Day of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. Separately, our differences are too diverse to list, but put together, our individual uniqueness creates a beautiful kaleidoscope we call the Body of Christ. Pentecost is the start of the Church's mission to the world.

Sadly, today we see people and nations torn apart by racism, religious differences, man-made borders and cultural bigotry. We have become a culture of us-versus-them, where the "other" is to be feared and never trusted. This is not a new occurrence, but you would have hoped that we would have learned from our past mistakes and recurrent genocides over the ages; however, here we are in the 21st century, and horror still continues in our world.

But it is not only nations that are torn apart.

Churches are torn apart too, over things such as liturgy, flowers, orders of services, music, coffee, biscuits – the list is endless and often trivial. But as we go through pain,

nationally, internationally or locally, we have to pray for love and unity in our community. And on those days when we just don't know what to say, isn't it wonderful that we have the Holy Spirit who intercedes with sighs too deep for words. I'm sure I've said it before, but I love that phrase, 'sighs too deep for words'.

Over the last year or so, very often I didn't know what words to use, and I know that my thoughts were not always on the will of God. During the pandemic, I've had to look at the more logistical side of things, to make sure the church has been safe for worship, so I've been pleased to hand over my concerns to the Holy Spirit, who does intercede according to the will of God.

Pentecost is a reminder that God's Holy Spirit is given freely to all people with no respect for race, culture, social economic standing, gender, sexuality or any other distinguishing mark used by people to differentiate one person from another. In God we are one.

On the Day of Pentecost, people gathered in Jerusalem from all corners of the Roman Empire. They represented competing economic interests, diverse cultures, a myriad of languages and different religious traditions. Nevertheless, God's grace was given freely to all who heard the message preached by St. Peter, and thousands converted to Christ.

Can you imagine the chaos in that first part of the Acts reading? If you are not very imaginative, when you go home, search for Pentecost art on your computer. There are some amazing paintings depicting this event. These aliens who converged on Jerusalem returned to their homes and spread the message of Christ, and the Church began to spread like a wildfire.

From its inception, the Church was a diverse group of people who hailed from a variety of cultures and languages. It was in the midst of this great diversity that God sent the Holy Spirit upon his Church and started a movement that would change the history of the world forever.

The message of Christ hasn't changed, but those who claim to be his followers have often failed miserably in living up to that message. The greatest temptation facing Christians isn't necessarily losing their passion, but rather, losing sight of the fact that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female. In God's kingdom there are no illegal aliens or undocumented workers. We who have died with Christ in baptism are resurrected to be a new people bound in love and service to one another.

The Holy Spirit is given freely to all, and God continues today to pour out his Spirit upon all humanity. The Holy Spirit works as a transformative agent in the lives of believers. Just as Jesus glorified humanity when he ascended to the Father, the gift of the Holy Spirit restores our relationship with God.

Pentecost is an awe-inspiring day of joy and celebration on many levels. Through the Holy Spirit, we welcome strangers into our midst and become family, and we welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives and become transformed into the image of Christ.

May the gift of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost renew us today and stir up within us those spiritual gifts which God has so richly and freely given to us when we were baptized into Christ's holy church. Amen.

Revd Nicki McNelly

(we pause to listen to a short piece of music for personal reflection)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand

We believe 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.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Please sit or kneel

INTERCESSIONS

In the Spirit of the Living God, we come with spoken words and words in our hearts.

We pray for your church.

Holy Spirit of God, all powerful as the wind, you came to the church on the day of Pentecost to quicken its life and empower its witness. Come and inspire your church today - your worldwide church, your church family here at St Cuthbert's. Guide and strengthen by your spirit all who lead at this changeful time. We pray especially for Bishop John, Nicki, Caroline and Margaret. Bless and give courage to all who are persecuted for their faith.

Spirit of the Living God...**fall afresh on your church.**

We pray for God's world.

Holy Spirit of God, we bring before you places of conflict - Israel and Palestine. Myanmar.

Breathe peace into the hearts of all who live there.

We pray for countries struggling to cope with the pandemic - especially India.

We ask for wisdom for world leaders in all the challenges they face - political, climate, health. Give them the vision and strength to work for justice, peace and the well-being of all.

Spirit of the Living God...**fall afresh on your world.**

Holy Spirit of God, we pray for all who have recently been elected to public office throughout the U.K. whether in Parliament or Council. Guide them to put loyalty to what is right above loyalty to party. May their only motive be service and the welfare of those they represent.

Spirit of the Living God...**fall afresh on those recently elected.**

Holy Spirit of God, be with all who are ill at this time - in hospital or a home. In our community we hold before you Faith and Inez. Be with those who are lonely or suffering and those who are grieving. We name in our hearts those known only to us.

Spirit of the Living God...**fall afresh on all who suffer.**

Finally a prayer for ourselves.

Holy Spirit of God, breathe new life into me - to draw me closer to you. To make me aware. To stir me to care.

Spirit of the Living God...**fall afresh on me. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

OFFERTORY HYMN 479 – Lord, the light of your love is shining

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Graham Kendrick (b.1950) ©1987 Make Way Music
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Please Stand

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being.
Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.
You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and
filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope.
He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, who are marked with the seal of your Spirit for the day of our final liberation, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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.

Please sit

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy.

From the Garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.

**We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.**

**Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with
them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, Saint Cuthbert and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

COMMUNION

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
All are welcome to receive.

Music for the sharing of Communion.

Please remain in your seat to receive Communion in one form only. The worship leader will bring it to you. Keep your face covering on until the person bringing the wafer has moved away and then you can lift it to eat the wafer.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to our gracious God
Whose mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father, may we who have received this eucharist live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth his gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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19 & 23 May 2021

Foodbank:

If you would like to support the June foodbank collection, cash can be given to Patricia in Colinton or me in Currie. I will then transfer it to the foodbank account.

Thank you, *Susan Clark.*



YouTube:

Join the full service each week online, (recording of the Wednesday service) using this link to our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3iPQOkQiVERjeHZbj2OnBQ>

St Cuthbert's Garden:

A beautiful, peaceful area to reconnect with nature, a haven, somewhere to chat with friends, a lovely setting for wedding photographs, all very apt and valid descriptions of our church gardens. However, keeping the lawns manicured, the verges weed free and the hedges and trees trimmed is no mean feat. So, the Gardening Team meet at 10 am on the second and fourth Mondays of each month during the summer. Please think about joining this friendly, but slightly aging group, you would be made most welcome. No experience is necessary, except perhaps being able to identify a weed, just turn up, with your favourite trowel and, more importantly, a drink and a snack, as we are allowed a wee break for a natter.

Bryan, Ross, Nick, Mary, Vivien and Margaret

The Sign Magazine Subscription 2021:

If you would like a paper copy of 'The Sign' magazine until the end of 2021, posted or delivered, the cost will be £12. If further details are required, please contact Marie – stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com. The June issue is out next week!

Services in Church:

Please continue to book to attend a service in church:-

Bookings can be made: Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday
10am – 1pm by email: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com or
by telephone: 07305 911986 (if no answer, please leave a message).

Thank you.

Weekly Prayer:

Dear Lord, You know every decision we need to make and every challenge we face. Thank you for sending your holy spirit to guide us and to give us strength, thoughtfulness and direction. May we try to do what we know to be right and good through its inspiration. Amen.