

Day of Pentecost – 31 May 2020 Prayers from Church of Scotland website worship section.

The Faith Nurture Forum would like to thank the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Minister of Orwell and Portmoak, for his thoughts on the Day of Pentecost

Approach to God

Mighty and gracious God, It is with gladness that we gather now in Your presence, bringing to You the worship of humble, grateful hearts. We adore You, creator and sustainer of all things, giver of every good and perfect gift, for the numberless blessings we have experienced in our lives, for Your goodness and mercy that have followed us all our days.

God of overflowing generosity, we praise You for the supreme gift of Your love in the coming of Your Son, our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and for the God You have shown us to be in Him.

Today we remember with joy the coming of the Spirit from the risen, ascended Christ at Pentecost, upon all those gathered: dispelling their fears, clearing their vision, uniting them as one, equipping them for mission.

Among us here today, and among Your people wherever they are gathered, may the same Spirit of Pentecost minister grace in these ways to each of us too. May our hearts and lives be open to the wind of the Spirit, the giver of life, that we may be energised to live more faithfully as members of your coming kingdom and as joyful witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ.

In whose strong name we pray. Amen

Thanksgiving

Lord our God, we thank You that the Holy Spirit has been here from the very beginning, moving over the waters of creation, bringing light out of darkness, order out of chaos, to breathe life into us who were formed in Your image.

We thank You for the Spirit's anointing of prophets, priests and kings, and all Your servants, who prepared the way for Your coming to us in Your Son.

We praise You for the Spirit's anointing, without measure, of Jesus and for everything accomplished in His life and ministry, His death and resurrection, through the Spirit's filling.

We thank You that, true to the promise of Jesus, the Spirit came in transforming power on the disciples at Pentecost to send them out on mission, as Jesus was Himself sent by the Father.

We bless You that the Spirit came, not for a fleeting visit, but to stay with us for ever, that this presence with us still holds the promise that one day in a renewed world of love and justice, all will worship Jesus Christ, its rightful Lord.

Thank You that the Spirit is with us here and now, as together we worship, mediating the presence of Jesus, ministering peace, comfort, correction and grace, bestowing new faith, new hope, new life.

Breathe on us, Breath of God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Confession

God of mercy and grace, We remember that when the Spirit came down at Pentecost, not all were glad. There were some who poured scorn on this coming, and mockery on the now Spirit-filled disciples.

Forgive us when, in fear and folly, we bar our minds and hearts to Your Spirit at work. Forgive us when we refuse to acknowledge the Spirit's action in others and in situations out-with our own comfort zones. Forgive us when we quench the Spirit, choosing darkness over light, and stunt

the growth of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Forgive us when we block the Spirit's constant promptings to share the good news of Jesus with others, by word and loving action. Forgive us when we choose safe and comfortable paths in place of the sometimes risky – even dangerous – routes of service and mission to which the Spirit directs us.

Cleanse our hearts by Your Spirit, Lord, to be Your dwelling place. Fill us anew, that we may be bold and humble bearers to a world in crying need of the sovereign, just and gentle rule of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

Intercession Come, Holy Spirit, restless breath of love, breathe on us now and help us to pray as we ought.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, to Your world today. As You brought order out of chaos at the beginning, brood over the chaos we have created in today's world, so that people everywhere may learn the way of life as You intend, and find purpose, meaning and hope in their existence. Where there is oppression and abuse of others, bring Your justice. Where there is anxiety and fear, bring Your peace. Where there is hatred and division, bring Your love. Where the resources of this awesome world are exploited, and we fail in our calling as trustees of land and sea, grant us repentance and the grace to learn a better way. Guide the rulers of the world in ways of justice and integrity, of truth and peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, to Your Church today. Breathe into us new life and zeal and delight in the gospel. Set our hearts on fire with Your love. Grow Your own fruit in our lives. As You did that day in Jerusalem, in all our diversity make us one in truth and love. Let the gifts of all be valued and used for the common good. Empower and equip us to bear compelling witness to Jesus' universal Lordship, by the way we live and speak and serve, that many will come to know Him for themselves. Make us unafraid to stand out from the crowd, and let it be seen that we have been with Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, to all who need Your presence today. Spirit of comfort, be near to all who are sad and lonely. Spirit of power, give Your strength to those who carry heavy burdens and are weary on life's journey. Spirit of peace, speak calm to troubled hearts and minds. Spirit of life and light, lift from despair those for whom daily life has lost interest, meaning and hope. Shine the Christ-light into their darkness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, and do a new work through the church in this land and in all the world. Revive us and equip us for those tasks to which Your people in every age and place are called. Sweep Your church forward with new life, new hope, new vision. May we act ever more closely together, in the rich diversity of the one body of Christ. So may glory be given to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen