

This is the final podcast for our Thy Kingdom Come series of podcasts, and today we have reached Pentecost. The day we have been waiting for for ten days. We have waited for this day with anticipation and, a sense of excitement, not so much for what happens today, but with anticipation for what we hope will happen.

Our reading from Acts today talks about hearing and feeling a sound like a rushing wind and everyone being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. They spoke in many languages and it also sounded so confusing that those around wondered if they were drunk.

But Peter said far from it. Instead they were doing what was prophesied long before. It must have sounded crazy! At this morning's service I hope to ask people to say The Lord's Prayer in a variety of languages including Italian, Latin, Finnish, Spanish, English, Welsh and Nepalese. I anticipate it to sound very strange, particularly with the way Zoom works – I imagine it may sound incomprehensible. In fact, I think I hope that may be the case. Because the message which I hope to give comes directly from that...

On that day when everyone spoke the different languages they were amazed that even though it was chaos they could still understand each other. The Holy Spirit was such that it was all understandable. Somehow, order was created out of chaos!

When we say the Lord's Prayer today in different languages it will sound chaotic, but we will have a sense of what it is about. Even on Zoom, it will still be comprehensible.

But more than that, just as God created order out of chaos that day, so too he can do that with us today in these strange and confusing and often stressful and seemingly incomprehensible times. The love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit is such that even when things seem to make no sense, we have our Lord who empowers each of us with gifts and talents, often beyond that which we thought capable, and through the power of the Holy Spirit fires us up to go and shine God's light into the dark places of the world, into the shadowy places of fear and the moments of uncertainty and worry. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are such that if we listen to their nudges, we can play our part in sharing God's love and in growing his Kingdom of Love here on earth.

So this Pentecost Day, why don't we light a candle and join together in prayer...

May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
bring fire to the earth  
so that the presence of God  
may be seen  
in a new light,  
in new places,  
in new ways.

May our own hearts  
burst into flame  
so that no obstacle,  
no matter how great,  
ever obstructs the message  
of the God within each of us.

May we come to trust  
the Word of God in our heart,  
to speak it with courage,  
to follow it faithfully  
and to fan it to flame in others?

Give us, Great God,  
a sense of the Breath of Spirit  
within us as we pray for our community and our world this day and every day.

Amen

God of power  
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of your Spirit  
be our goal and our strength,  
now and always.

Amen