

# Mickleover and Dean Street Methodist Churches Service Sheet

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Worship in Mickleover MC is at 10am and on Zoom, with preacher Revd Gill Sharp

Worship in Dean St MC is at 10.30am, with preacher Mr Phil Royle

### Call to worship

Lord, we come just as we are this morning,  
knowing you see us and hear us,  
and are within us and around us,  
even when we are unaware of you.  
May we be open to your transforming Holy Spirit  
and welcome you with our hearts and minds.  
Call us, inspire us, surprise us and challenge us.  
Give us confidence and calm assurance.  
Lead us in your power and love.  
**Amen.**

### Hymn StF 338 There is a redeemer

#### Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Gracious God, we give praise you for every  
glimpse of your Spirit at work in the world  
around us.  
We bring them to mind in adoration.

We offer ourselves to you anew  
Spirit of compassion, **we bring you our hearts.**  
Spirit of discernment, **we bring you our choices.**  
Spirit of wisdom, **we bring you our minds.**  
Spirit of boldness, **we bring you our words.**  
Spirit of fulfilment, **we bring you our longings.**  
Spirit of abundance, **we bring you our resources.**  
Spirit of creation, **we bring you our lives.**

Gracious God, we acknowledge there have  
been times in our lives this week when we  
have not allowed you to work in our lives  
without reservation.  
We bring them to mind in humility.

Forgive us, for those times when we have stifled  
your Spirit and confined your love:  
Give us a fresh understanding of your love in our  
hearts, **release in us the true Spirit of Pentecost.**

Gracious God, we give thanks today for every  
work of your loving grace we have seen in our  
lives this week.  
We bring them to mind in thanksgiving.  
In the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

### Reading: Acts 2:1-21

#### Reflection

We have come to the end of the time of the  
prayer movement 'Thy Kingdom come'. We knew  
on Ascension Day that this time of prayer would  
last until now, the Day of Pentecost. We knew  
what we were committing ourselves to, but we  
didn't know the outcome and may still not. I hope  
it has helped you *deepen your own relationship  
with Jesus* but we may not have seen any  
evidence of change in the other two aspects of  
our prayers, *prayers for 5 friends or family to  
come to faith in Jesus* and *for the empowerment  
of the Spirit that we would be effective in our  
witness.*

Knowing what will happen when can have its  
advantages – we know how long we are  
committed to something. Take some time to  
reflect on your own experiences of knowing when  
something will end and compare it to your  
feelings of waiting for something to begin.

The first disciples had no end date for their  
waiting and praying for the promised Holy Spirit.  
They did not know when or how the Spirit would  
come; but they were not waiting for an ending,  
they were anticipating a new beginning. A  
beginning they didn't fully understand but one  
they would recognize when it came! It was the  
beginning of a new chapter in their lives as  
followers of Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit –  
whatever that might mean for them.

Perhaps not knowing what will happen is  
sometimes a good thing – would they have even  
believed it if Jesus had told them they would all  
speak in different languages?

One aspect of story of Pentecost that is important  
is the way the Spirit breaks down barriers of  
communication. The disciples are enabled to  
speak in languages they have not learnt so that  
other people may hear and understand the good  
news of Jesus. Those people are enabled to  
experience the transforming power of God. The

barrier is broken, and they are freed! If we read on to verse 41 we learn about 3000 responded to Peter's message, knew they were forgiven, received the Holy Spirit and were baptized.

For most of us our means of communication have changed during lockdown, what barriers did you have to break for that to happen? The fear of technology? Having the right equipment? I wonder what barriers of communication we still need to work on breaking down? Are there barriers that stop us sharing the good news of Jesus? Are we willing to ask for the Spirit's help to break through those barriers and enable us to communicate the good news of Jesus with others? It may not be what we expect, it may be far better! This Pentecost, may we all be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit so that we feel our hearts strangely warmed as John Wesley did on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1738, and may our lives be transformed so that we may experience the Spirit of God at work in our lives today and every day.

### **Hymn StF 391 O breath of life**

#### **Prayers of intercession**

God of all grace,  
We pray for your Church today,  
Especially for the witness of your people in this community, breathe new life into us, and grant us a clear vision to be faithful.  
Holy Spirit, come; **come and empower us.**

God of all grace,  
We pray for those who suffer today,  
All who suffer for their faith...  
All who suffer in body, mind and spirit...  
Reveal yourself to all in need with comfort and peace.  
Holy Spirit, come; **come and strengthen them.**

God of all grace,  
We pray for the nations in your world.  
Grant to those in authority the gifts needed to speak clearly across divides, to bring healing and calm, where there are wounds and discord.  
Holy Spirit, come; **come and unite them.**

God of all grace,  
In quietness we offer to you the people and places on our hearts today.  
[Silence]  
Holy Spirit, come; **come and renew them.**

In faith, and hope, we offer these prayers to you Holy God. May we see your work, vision, and kingdom come here on Earth.

This we pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

### **StF 407 Hear the call of the Kingdom**

Hear the call of the kingdom  
Lift your eyes to the King  
Let His song rise within you  
As a fragrant offering  
Of how God rich in mercy  
Came in Christ to redeem  
All who trust in His unfailing grace

Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To be children of light  
With the mercy of heaven  
The humility of Christ  
Walking justly before Him  
Loving all that is right  
That the life of Christ may shine through us

King of Heaven we will answer the call  
We will follow bringing hope to the world  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
Salvation in Jesus' name

Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To reach out to the lost  
With the Father's compassion  
In the wonder of the cross  
Bringing peace and forgiveness  
And a hope yet to come  
Let the nations put their trust in Him  
(Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend)

Sending prayer  
**Holy Spirit, send us out.**  
**May the fire of the Spirit be in our hearts,**  
**May the hope of transformation be in our minds,**  
**May the grace of God be in our bodies,**  
**May we be a Pentecost people,**  
**Holy Spirit, send us out.**  
**Amen.**

### **The Grace**

*To join the Zoom service by telephone dial 0203 481 5237 and use meeting details below*