

Sunday 24th May 2026

Acts 2:1-13 Pentecost

Welcome

Are you more likely to embrace change or try to pretend it's not happening?

What emotions does change evoke in you – exhilaration, fear, frustration etc?

Word

Read Acts 2:1-8 and 12-13:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

(⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!")

¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

1. What were the disciples doing at the start of the chapter?
2. How do you think they felt? How would you have felt in their situation?
3. Read verse 2 and 3. What do the words 'like' and 'seemed' suggest?
4. How would you have felt if you heard the wind and saw the flames?
5. The flames separated and rested on each of them. What does that suggest?
6. How does the Holy Spirit change them in the immediate? (verse 4)
7. The crowd reacts differently – in what ways do they react? (verses 6, 12 and 13)
8. What reactions might we get today if we show we are full of the spirit?
9. The events of Pentecost were motivated by the Spirit and in line with scripture but not conventionally respectable! (They appeared drunk!) What kinds of activity might the Holy Spirit and the Bible call us to today which defy 'respectability'?
10. What difference would it have made if Pentecost had happened to each of the followers in their own home, rather than together?
11. Do we deal with change better when we're together?
12. Take a quick look at Genesis 11:1-9. How does this connect with the account of Pentecost in Acts 2?

The followers were all together in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them – soon, however they would be scattered far and wide due to political situations and persecution of the church. But first the Holy Spirit knit them together as one body.

13. How is God knitting our church together into a closer community at the moment? As we face change in the future, how can we support one another as the Spirit leads us through?

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Jews have been taken into exile into Babylon. They are far from home and feel defeated. The fact that God has allowed them to be in this situation has shaken their faith.

14. Given the situation that the Jews were in when Ezekiel had this vision, what do you think the dry bones represent?
15. Once the bones had reassembled and had flesh on them, what else did they need? (verse 8) what do you think this represents (seeing as we're looking at Pentecost!)
16. What parallels can you see with the story of Pentecost?
17. What relevance does this have to us? How does God's Spirit bring life to us?
18. How can we have more of God's breath, his Spirit in us?

Read John 14: 16-18 and 14:25-27 and 15: 26-27

In John 14 and 15, Jesus made a promise to his disciples which was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. The promise Jesus made was just before his death and resurrection. (Only about 50 days before the day of Pentecost).

19. What does Jesus promise in these verses?
20. What difference will the promise make?
21. The word 'Counsellor' was used – how do you think that made the disciples feel? How does it make you feel?
22. Do you think what happened on the day of Pentecost was really what they expected?

Worship & Witness

Personal reflection:

- What change are you journeying through at the moment? Have you noticed God giving you gifts to help you step more confidently into this next season?
- Do you need a burst of that Pentecost joy? Do you find yourself more fearful than joyful? Sometimes joy comes only when we let go and trust. What might you need to let go of? How could you give God your 'yes' today?
- If God is speaking through all of us, how can we get better at listening to each other? Which voices do we tend not to hear?

Prayer Pointers

- For those undertaking exams at this time
- For the summer outreach in Page Park
- For situations in the news this week

A prayer to read:

Lord God

We're in awe at how you transformed ordinary people into people who changed the world.

You gave them power. You gave them authority.

Instead of fear – you gave them courage.

Only the Holy Spirit made that possible. We thank you for that amazing gift.

Thank you for keeping your promise to never leave us alone.

You changed the disciples lives forever – you became part of them, breathing passion and energy into their lives.

Lord God we ask that you would do the same for us; where there's apathy – fill us with passion and love

Where there's fear and insecurity, bring freedom and courage.

Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit Lord God, and keep filling us daily. Amen.