

# QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

### MAY

The theme is Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit.  
This material is for 20<sup>th</sup> May. (Pentecost is 23<sup>rd</sup> May)

#### Week 3 - Pentecost

Leader: An Affirmation for Pentecost

This could be said by the leader or by all

We believe in a loving God, whose word sustains our  
lives and the work of our hands in the world.

God is life.

We believe in God's son amongst us, sowing the seed of  
life's renewal. He lived with the poor to show the  
meaning of love.

Jesus Christ is Lord.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of life, making us one with  
God, renewing our strength with her own

The Spirit is love.

#### OPENING RESPONSES

God speaks to us

#### IN THE RICHES OF CREATION

God speaks to us

#### IN THE STORIES OF JESUS

God speaks to us

## IN THE LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE

God speaks to us

## IN WORDS AND WAYS THAT WE CAN UNDERSTAND

Hymn or song: Suggested hymn to read are: 593 "She sits like a bird brooding on the waters."

Read Psalm 104 verses 24 – 24 and 35b

### Prayer

Spirit of God, flickering over our heads, illuminating our faces, inspiring our thoughts, give us now, we pray

WORDS OF JOY AND PRAISE

Spirit of God, filling our hearts with hope, steadying our nerves with peace, comforting our lives with love, give us now we pray

WORDS OF JOY AND PRAISE

Spirit of God, come to us now – surging through the darkness of our lives, sweeping over our weariness – so that, in this time of Pentecost, the sparkling light of faith, the rushing wind of hope, and the joyful sound of praise may echo round the world, may echo in the church, and find their response in us.

Spirit of God, give us now, we pray

WORDS OF JOY AND PRAISE.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us, freshen us, renew us, open our eyes to the needful tasks and our own abilities to fulfil the work.

Enable us to be identified as God's holy people by our love and joy, our peace and patience, our kindness and generosity, our faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. May we shine as lights in the world to the glory of God. We praise you, O God,  
FOR YOUR WONDERFUL GIFT OF YOURSELF  
And now hear us as we pray further in the words Jesus taught his disciples, saying:  
OUR FATHER

Read: Acts 2 verses 1 – 11  
John 20 verses 19 - 23

### Reflection

Reflect for 5 – 7 minutes.

Many people feel less comfortable speaking about the Holy Spirit than about God the Father or about Jesus? Why might that be? How do you imagine the Holy Spirit and what part does the Spirit play in your Christian life and witness?

These are only suggestions. You will have lots of other ideas.

This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence.

You might choose to use this reflection:

Who is this Holy Spirit?

Sounds a bit spooky to me!

Weren't those weird old prophets meant to be spirit-filled?

What a lot of strange things they did!  
And what about King David dancing before the Lord and  
all that?  
His wife was appalled.  
Then at Pentecost some odd things happened:  
"Speaking in tongues" and everyone hearing in their  
own language – little wonder people thought the  
disciples were drunk!  
No, you'll not catch me having anything to do with the  
Holy Spirit.  
I mean, Christianity is meant to be safe and sensible,  
isn't it?  
Who needs the Holy Spirit?

#### Prayer

This is a time for prayers for the world, for the  
communities in which we live; for the Church and those  
who minister here in any capacity; for those known to  
us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

#### CLOSING RESPONSES

God of fire and beauty

WARM US

God of peace and justice

DISTURB US

God of wind and wonder

AMAZE US

God of Pentecost

KINDLE YOUR LOVE IN OUR LIVES

Some of this material has been adapted from "Fire and Bread" by Ruth Burgess and published by the Iona Community, and has been added to by me.