

**St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC**

**Order for Worship for 31st May 2020 at 11.00am**

**Pentecost**

**Rev'd Paulina Hlawiczka**

**Welcome and Notices**

**Call to Worship**

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

I welcome you on Pentecost Sunday, the Day when the Holy Spirit was sent to the world.

It is my pleasure to address you all, my friends from the URC and other friends who are joining this service today.

It is a challenge that I cannot see you – it is a very different experience to record for you and meet you online - but in these difficult times it is the only way, and it is also a blessing that regardless of all the circumstances we are able to communicate.

I want to wish you a blessed service...

**Hymn – R&S 294 Come Down O Love Divine**

**1** Come down, O Love Divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,

and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.  
**2** O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.  
**3** Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.  
**4** And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till he become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco Da Siena (d 1434)

Translated R.F. Littledale (1833-90)

**Prayers of Approach, Confession and Lord's Prayer**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, to you be glory and praise for ever. From the darkness of death, you have raised your Son, Jesus Christ to the right hand of your majesty on high.

Our God is gracious and comes to us in mercy. When we wander far from him, he comes to meet us and restores our broken lives. Let us therefore come before him with confidence and declare our sin and guilt, trusting in his strength and grace.

**I confess to you, Holy God, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, look on me in mercy and forgive my sins.**

Hear, o Lord, the private confession of every heart... ..

#### **Absolution**

You have prayed for the forgiveness of your sin. I therefore declare, at our Lord's command: Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Reading** – Romans 8: 26-27

#### **Anthem - "Arise and shine forth" by Sally DeFord**

A glorious dawn o'er all the world is breaking  
Arise! you are called to bear the Saviour's name  
The fire of His spirit in faithful hearts is burning  
Arise! you are called to hold aloft its flame

*Arise and shine forth, a light unto the nations  
A beacon of salvation, a standard o'er the earth*

*Arise and shine forth to fill a world in darkness  
With the brightness and the glory of the Lord  
Arise! Arise and shine forth*

A glorious dawn o'er all the world is breaking  
For prophets again have heard the voice of God  
He speaks from the heavens to every tongue and people  
Arise! you are called to spread his word abroad  
*Arise and shine forth.....*

A glorious dawn o'er all the world is breaking  
The hour is at hand when Christ will come to reign  
When goodness and mercy will govern all creation  
Arise! you are called to usher in the day  
*Arise and shine forth.....*

#### **Prayer with and for our young people**

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus for a very long time now. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. We are missing our friends and family, as we cannot meet now. Our hearts are broken, longing for a different reality.

**Be with every person who is worried right now and help us to find peace.**

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us and that we can communicate with you and with each other.

**Help us to put our trust in you, God, and keep us safe and full of patience and love. Amen**

**Hymn – R&S 307 Though Gift of Knowledge and of Tongues  
(to tune Kingsfold R&S 201)**

- 1 Though gifts of knowledge and of tongues  
I should in full possess;  
though I should suffer for a cause,  
and shine at selflessness;  
though I had a mountain-moving faith,  
or gave with all my will,  
my life would all be wasted breath  
if I were loveless still.
- 2 True love is patient, kind and brave –  
no envy there , or pride,  
no touchiness, no evil glee  
when others slip or slide.  
Love always takes a pure delight  
in truth, in people’s best:  
it trusts, endures, forgives and hopes,  
and overlooks the rest.
- 3 Our anxious gazings at the glass  
no certain future see;  
yet, growing up, we leave behind  
the child we used to be.  
Complete in Christ, we’ll fully know  
and face to face be known:  
so faith and hope will find in love  
their everlasting crown.

Caryl Micklem (1925-2003)

**Reading – Acts 2:1-21**

**Sermon**

**Prayers of intercession**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

Dear Lord, during the past months, our world has been flooded with a number of people who have been tested positively for the coronavirus, who died from this illness, who are grieving after death of a beloved person. We pray that you may welcome those who have passed away into your heavenly kingdom and send helping and consolidating forces to those who have been left behind, who are stressed, unwell and afraid. And for those who have been infected we pray that you may hold your protecting hands over them and strengthen their immune system so that they may overcome the disease and come out of this despair strengthened and filled with energy.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayers.**

We pray that you may calm the minds of the people all over the world so that we may not panic and in our fogged mind become selfish and careless about those who are around us and need our help.

We also pray that you may strengthen this country and help it find its course in the difficult times of Brexit. Guide all those who are suffering from the consequences that this decision has brought upon us, especially now when so many migrants

are not able to move back to their origin country, nor, some of them, are able to continue working in this country.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayers.**

**Trusting in Your mercy and goodness, we bring before You these prayers and whatever else You see that we need, in the name of the One who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn** – CH4 582 O Day of Joy and Wonder  
(Tune Thornbury at R&S 567)

- 1 O Day of joy and wonder!  
Christ's promise now fulfilled!  
The coming of his Spirit  
the Father's love has willed;  
our Lord in human body  
to mortal eye is lost,  
yet he returns for ever  
at blessed Pentecost!
- 2 The world, in sheer amazement,  
the truth must now declare:  
that men, who once were cowards,  
are brave beyond compare;  
and tongues, which could not utter  
their faith in Jesus' name,  
defy all persecution  
his glory to proclaim!

- 3 We too may know your power,  
your courage makes us strong,  
your love, your joy, your patience  
can all to us belong.  
Come now and dwell within us.  
O Comforter divine,  
come to our hearts, and keep them:  
there let your brightness shine.

*Violet Nita Buchanan (1891-1975)*

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Amen.**