**MACEDON RANGES PARTNERSHIP SERVICE PENTECOST YEAR B**

**21-23 MAY 2021**

You may like to follow our service on our video, You can find it on our Worship Services page on our website at <https://www:macedonrangesunitingchurch>.org.au/worship-services or on YOUTUBE at <https://youtu.be/AAgI10JzWcg>

Our service invites you to read the scriptures, pause, meditate and pray. Allow the stories told to lead you. We suggest reading the passages when suggested below. If you would like to look at previous videos on our Youtube channel, go to

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** We acknowledge all the Aboriginal Groups who have cared for and nurtured the land on which we meet: the Wurundjeri, Woi Wurruung, Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present and emerging for it is in them that Australia’s future lies. You are welcome here, as we reflect in different rooms and districts, States and Countries around the world, our spiritual connectedness through Christ Jesus, is remembered.

**WELCOME** Welcome to our time of worship, we continue to enjoy this wonderful autumn weather. What a great God we worship, let us delight in God’s creation.

**OPENING PRAYER** Pentecost comes when the spirit chooses, then like a mighty rushing of wind, like tongues of fire,

**The spirit whom Jesus sends will lead us into all truth** May the glory of God endure forever! May God find joy in all creation! I will sing to God as long as I live! **I will sing praises as long as I have being!** Wonderful are you God, your Spirits broods over all creation! Wonderful are you God, your spirit filled Jesus our Christ. Wonderful are you God, your spirit inspires and counsels your church. Come upon us, move among and within us, that our minds may discern you more surely, our hearts love you more dearly, and our worship and work glorify you. AMEN

**HYMN TIS 407 BREATHE ON ME BREATHE OF GOD**

**PSALM 104:24-31, 33-34, 35b BRUCE PREWER**

God-Friend, your creativity is prodigal,

each creature has a part to play in your wisdom,

all living things fit your purposes on earth**.**

Around us rolls the sea, mighty and wide,

teeming with life in many forms,

from tiny shrimps to great white sharks.

On it sail ships of many sizes and designs,

through the oceans mighty whales sing

and sport in the waves as you intend.

All life depends on you for existence,

and you provide in every season.

They gather the food you give them,

your open-handedness is their happiness.

If you withdrew, they would be dismayed,

when you recall their breath, they return to dust.

When you send out your Spirit they live,

you constantly renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of God last forever

and take delight in all created things,

I will sing to God as long as I live,

give praise as long as I have being,

I hope God gets some pleasure from me,

as I get my joy from thinking about God.

O my human spirit, exalt in your God!

O my inspired soul, praise your Creator!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION by Bruce Prewer**

Holy Friend, come with your energy, blow through us like a wind, and cleanse our hearts of all staleness and pollution. **Lord have mercy**. Holy Friend, come like tongues of fire upon our heads, and cleanse our minds of all distortion, subterfuge and error**. Christ have mercy**.

Holy Friend, come with your truth, and lead us beyond the false values and arrogance of this world, into the onlyauthentic enlightenment**. Lord have mercy.** Holy Friend, come with the free grace of Christ Jesus**,**

**forgiving, redeeming, healing and resourcing the things that are good and true.**

Holy Friend, come with your many gifts

**and replace our ineptitude with a better use of our abilities and an increased fruitfulness.**

Come with your supreme gift of love, and the art of loving one another*.*

**Through Jesus Christ our redeemer AMEN**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, perpetual failure and regret is not our destiny. The Spirit we have received is not one of fear, keeping us in a religious slavery. The Spirit adopts us into God’s own family, enabling us to call on God, crying “Abba! Our Father! **“ Thanks be to God.**

**READINGS Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27, & 16:4b- 15, ACTS 2:1-21**

**HYMN TIS 414: THERE’S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR**

**REFLECTION** by Bruce Prewer **What does the Holy Spirit really mean to you ? In your experiences ? In what we see in others and what happened in our own lives ?**

The “Holy Spirit “ is often called the “Counsellor or the “Helper “ I like that, it rings true to what happens in my own experience and of other Christians around me. There is present, right now, an unseen Helper who is from God, and is God.

Too often our expression of the Spirit latches onto the unusual, the exceptional, the wildly flamboyant. People tend to limit the visitation of the Spirit to special, effervescent spiritual experiences. Like talking in tongues, or a rapturous moment of spiritual insight. But many in their lives do bear the fruits of the Spirit, namely – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness and self-control. Such folk touch lives around them with the greatest fruit of all; LOVE.

To a multi-lingual scholar like Paul, the fact that ordinary people could be bearers of the Spirit of God was astounding! Once he wrote:

*“see what kind of people you are that have been called. Not many of you were sophisticated by university standards, not many held influential positions, and not many of you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. But God has chosen what was foolish …………. To put to shame the clever, God has chosen weaklings to put to shame the powerful, those who were nobodies to downsize those who thought they were something.”*

Within the church, itself a fruit of the new creation, the Holy Spirit is shown to be tirelessly throughout all seasons bringing new growth and empowerment to God’s people. No person is too unimportant for the Holy Spirit to notice, no-one is too ungifted to be of use. It is never out of season for LOVE and all the other fruits of the Spirit. **The fruits are expected to be used and shared**.

**The Helper is quietly at work**

In the sincere concern of a friend for our health’ In those who take a stand against injustice,

In the grace of those who go the second mile,

In the inner resources we discover in times of crisis, In those who dare to go against the tide of popular opinion,

in the sanity that enables us to admit when we are wrong, in the resilience of people who fight for the rights of others, in those who surrender some of their rights for the larger good. in times when we share the Gospel in spite of our inadequacies, in finding joy in unexpected places, in taking on responsibilities that we once thought beyond us, in refusing to let greed of society take over our soul, in giving thanks always, even through the hard times of life, in rising above past failures and putting past hurts behind us, in finding a central core of peace in the midst of turmoil, in daring to laugh in situations where some would curse, in knowing ourselves to be children of God, in knowing ourselves loved, even when we have been very unlovable.

*Pentecost is not a happening in the distant past. It is present.* God refuses to be influenced by the limits of time and place. The gifts and fruits of the Spirit are with us here, just as the Holy Spirit is with us here right now.

This is a day to celebrate the indulgence of our God, to revel in the extravagance of God’s Holy Spirit, to affirm each other’s faith, fortify each others hope, cherish each other’s love, and to honour and exercise our “gifts “ for the good of all. On this Pentecost, let us give thanks for both quiet and spectacular, but most of all for the “fruits” especially for LOVE.

**HYMN TIS 418 SHE SITS LIKE A BIRD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

When we pray for others, it is our covenant to try and serve them. Let us pray In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we seek your blessing, God, on your church in its service to the world. **Come Holy Spirit,**

**come with the healing breath of the risen Christ**,

**Come sweep us with your wind**

**and inflame us with your love**  Work, Holy Helper, in the Uniting Church, and with all other denominations. Especially bless and encourage those with whom we feel least affinity, that we may see your Spirit at work in them and have the grace to give thanks. **Come Holy Spirit,**

**come healing breath of the risen Christ,**

**Come sweep us with your wind**

**and inflame us with your love** Bless those congregations that are facing radical change, the ones who are teetering on the threshold of new possibilities and must make difficult decisions. May they choose well and step forward with courage.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

**come healing breath of the risen Christ,**

**Come sweep us with your wind**

**and inflame us with your love** Inflame with your love congregations which have become lukewarm, and may members whose faith, hope and love have grown cold. May they recover their first love and find once more the sheer joy of living as your own children.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

**come healing breath of the risen Christ,**

**Come sweep us with your wind**

**and inflame us with your love** Bless your Church in its service to the wider community and world. Guide and inspire those special church agencies which care for the homeless, the social misfits, the prisoner, the addict, the refugee, the broken family, the hungry, and the abused.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

**come healing breath of the risen Christ,**

**Come sweep us with your wind**

**and inflame us with your love.** Loving God, please be to each of us the helper in times of weakness, The guide when circumstances confuse us, the warmth when our hearts feel cold, the Counsellor when we need straightening out, the Comforter when hearts are broken, the Fire when our faith ebbs low, and the light when deep darkness falls**.**

**Come Holy Spirit,**

**come healing breath of the risen Christ,**

**Come sweep us with your wind**

**and inflame us with your love,**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN TIS 412 SPIRIT FRIEND**

**SENDING FORTH** May the God of our wonderful Pentecost Spirit cause us to celebrate with bubbling Joy,

A new age of Hope and Joy, and a time of opportunity.

May things that were trodden down be raised up, things that are growing old made young again,

and may all things return to their promised perfection.

Glorious is the name of God among the children of light.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **AMEN**