**Lent to Pentecost**

Lord God, your commitment to us is clear: We see it in the life of Jesus.

Your commitment to us is complete:

We see it is the crucifixion of Jesus.

Our commitment to you is often mixed: What do we want for ourselves?

What shall we give to you?

With what measure of love shall we serve you?

Help us now, in this time of Lent,

to walk with Jesus on his Calvary journey, that our commitment may be clear

and our love complete.

Take us Lord, to the end of the road. Take us Lord, to the cross.

Lead us Lord, to the centre of our being. Lead us Lord, where things fall apart where people are denied life.

# An opening prayer

Duncan Tuck

# Hold us tight Lord

Hold us tight Lord, as we cry out for peace.

Hold us tight Lord and shoulder our burden at your cross.

Vaughan Jones

# During Lent

Patiently I waited for the Lord;

## Opening Scripture: Psalm 40

who bent down to me and listened to my cry.

*All* **God raised me out of the miry pit, out of the mud and clay;**

The Most High set my feet upon rock

and gave me a firm footing.

*All* **On my lips the Eternal One put a new song, a song of praise to our God.**

**Happy are those**

**who put their trust in the Lord. Amen.**

With what great heart, dear God, do you love the world.

We are the people you made, yours is the earth we walk

and all the good things we have come from you.

*All* **You are not only the origin of our life**

**but the source of our strength and hope.**

**We are glad to meet you here where heaven and earth combine**

**in this bread and wine**

**to spell out your purpose and your love in Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**Amen.**

## Prayer of approach

Again you come, dear Lord, the table is set,

the bread is baked, the wine is poured,

and you await your friends.

Brief silence.

*All* **But all is not right with us,**

**we feel it and cannot escape it.**

**We know we are not invited because we are worthy**

**but because you are gracious. Nonetheless,**

**we wish we were more ready to meet with you.**

Frustrations accumulate,

differences go unresolved

and our best intentions come to nothing.

*All* **Called to take up our cross**

**we have barely picked up our feet.**

**We wonder how can you find pleasure**

**in our company?**

And yet you do.

## Prayer

*All* **So set a table in our hearts,**

**and call it acceptance.**

**Spread a cloth**

**and call it forgiveness. Come and sit with us, Lord,**

**where we are,**

**as you always do. Amen.**

Bread is broken,

and his love revealed, Wine is poured,

and the promise sealed.

Hands reach out,

and lives are filled,

Hope is born

and conflict stilled.

Christ who entered sin and death

is now our life, our very breath.

## A prayer after Communion

Duncan Wilson

# Eucharistic prayer for Lent

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

*All* **Have mercy upon us.**

In the beginning your Spirit moved across waste and void and you formed a world of wonderful beauty out of nothing. You called forth life in many forms;

you looked on all that you had made and saw that it was good.

Yet we could not bear to live in harmony with your will. We spoiled the beauty of creation;

we lost the peace you gave us, and still we pollute and we destroy.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

*All* **Have mercy upon us.**

Out of this lawless world you called a people to be your light; you fed them in their wanderings and gave to them your Law. Many prophets called them to repentance;

few were those who heard them

and walked the paths of justice and of peace.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

*All* **Have mercy upon us.**

Finally you sent your own beloved Son. His was a birth both poor and humble, yet earth rejoiced and heaven sang.

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Before he began his great work of healing your Spirit led him into the wilderness

where he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Faithfully he walked the way of his Cross;

lovingly opened his arms in death to reconcile both earth and heaven.

Yet he was rejected and despised.

Even his disciples fled in that dark hour;

only faithful women saw him give up his life.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

*All* **Have mercy upon us.**

Yet in your infinite mercy he was given to us

to bear and to heal the sin of the world, to rise from the darkness of death

and to flood the world with light and hope.

In him the wastelands of our earth and of our hearts grow fresh and green and break forth into song:

for he has broken the hold of sin and death

and the gates of paradise stand open before us.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

*All* **Have mercy upon us.**

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed

took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: ‘This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this is remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

May the Spirit who moved across the waste and void descend upon these gifts of bread and wine

that they may be for us the fruits of his Passion,

his body and his blood, given for the life of the world. May your power be made perfect in our weakness; may your purpose be accomplished through us,

until the pain and hurt of all creation

finds healing through the wounded Christ:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

*All* **Have mercy upon us.**

Colin Thompson

# Passion Sunday

## Opening Scripture: Psalm 130

Lord, out of the depths have we called unto you,

*All* **Lord, hear our cry.**

If you, Lord, kept account of sins,

*All* **who could stand?**

But with you is forgiveness,

*All* **So that you may be revered.**

We wait for you more eagerly

than sentinels wait for the morning.

*All* **For in you is love unfailing, and great is your power**

**to set us free from our sins.**

Dear Lord,

battlefields are not the only graveyards

## Prayer Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-4

where the eternal struggles between good and evil have been fought.

*All* **Human hearts are also heavy with the dead weight of failure,**

**of loves denied and hopes dashed to pieces.**

The bright mornings of human goodwill, raising our spirits,

too often give way

to dark nights of fears and doubts

that drain our confidence and sap our strength.

*All* **Sometimes, all that remains**

**are remains, the shambles of our lives.**

But faced with such devastation we reach out with Ezekiel

to touch the eternal promise

that you will make all things new.

*All* **This is our faith**

Broken families, failed relationships, hard work come to nothing:

– an endless variety of hard knocks do not prevent your grace

from loving new life into being.

*All* **This is our hope**

Out of the fragments of the past, dear Lord, build anew your temple within us

and take the sobs and sighs of grief or regret

and make of them the first breaths

of our re-creation.

*All* **This is our prayer,**

**for you are the bringer of life. Amen.**

Duncan Wilson

# Palm Sunday

## Scripture: Isaiah 42 paraphrased

The servant whom God upholds is coming, the chosen one in whom God delights.

*All* **On him God’s Spirit firmly rests,**

**by him God’s justice will be done.**

He will not shout or raise his voice.

*All* **He will not falter or be crushed.**

In him God’s holy arm is bared.

*All* **Through him God’s sure salvation comes.**

Then let the watchers shout for joy

*All* **and let the desert places sing!**

## Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Gracious and patient God.

it can be hard to bear rejection at any time but especially so

when we are trying to give our best to others. Like your Servant,

we have sought to console the weary with a timely word –

and in a busy world,

to follow the Maker’s instructions, to sharpen our ears to your voice,

and to shrug off life’s knocks, if we can, with a smile.

Today we rejoice in the final journey

of the Prince of hard knocks, the Servant King –

who bore so patiently

his fragile and short-lived popularity, the unpredictability of his followers

and the lonely walk towards our salvation. Teach us, therefore, with him,

to lift our eyes

to that greater purpose

you cherish for all humanity compared to which

all present discomfort with our fractious world

fades into insignificance.

May there be no halting to lick our wounds, rather, forgetting what lies behind,

may we press towards the goal of his eternal kingdom.

## Prayer

Ride on, carpenter King,

uneasy in your majesty.

Open your heart to the people’s welcome and ride your donkey

through their brief glimpse of glory.

*All* **And show us,**

**who dip our palms in homage the things that honour peace, as mounted in humility,**

**you proclaim the reign of God.**

## Prayer

Enter our world

of strutting armies and commercial empires and cure our addiction

to worldly notions of power and glory.

*All* **Come,**

**cry over our cities,**

**the endless trail of refugees,**

**the tragic list of human atrocities, the raping of our silent planet until your pathway of peace**

**makes headway in our stony hearts and stirs our stale assumptions.**

Then may your kingdom Come – **not ours;**

and your will be done – **not ours;**

for yours is the power and glory – **not ours.**

*All* **And may our hosannas**

**no longer sound the hollow note of those who join in the singing but not the striving.**

**But with sincerity and truth**

**may the gates of our hearts be open to receive you,**

**our humble, patient, servant king.**

## A meditation

Make no sound, gentle beast, but firmly place your hooves on what becomes,

even as you pass, ground made more holy by your precious burden.

Even the stones

(he says so himself)

are bursting to shout ‘hosanna!’

For this is not a day for keeping praise locked up

in the dungeon of our despair.

Then let it out – all that longing

for one, just One Chosen, to take hold of the reins of our weary existence; someone worth following who tells no lies

but lives the truth so well that he will even die

to plant its seed

in out little plot of hope and love. Go gently, then,

towards his Jerusalem and our salvation.

Duncan Wilson

# Good Friday

A long night. Interrogations. Anger mocking.

## Father, forgive them, they know not what they do

The cup is there, waiting to be drunk.

Brutality and expediency are taking their course. Now is the time for hiding,

for counting the cost of denial,

Being numbered amongst the betrayers.

Such love, such sacrifice.

A love that is willing to be broken, shattered, eliminated,

whilst we fade away into the night of Jerusalem, too scared by the cost of discipleship

too afraid to take the ultimate risk of giving all into God’s hands.

We have not changed Lord. On countless Good Fridays we have wielded the hammer,

driven in the nails and pushed down the crown of thorns. The evidence is all around –

the jagged edges of broken relationships, the distended bellies of the starving,

the holes in the ozone layer.

Praise be to God

that you have not changed Lord, on countless Good Fridays

you let our sins nail you to cruel, unyielding crosses, your love unbreaking,

powerful beyond our imagining in powerlessness.

And from your love flows forgiveness

and new opportunity

Lord, we confess our sins, and we crave your forgiveness

Hear the words of Jesus:

– Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.

David G Cornick

# Good Friday 1

It was while we were still helpless that, at the appointed time,

Christ died for us whilst we were sinners

## Opening Scripture: Romans 4

and that is proof of God’s love towards us.

And so, since we have been made right

by Christ’s sacrificial death,

we shall all the more certainly be saved through him.

We exult in God through our Lord Jesus

for he has won our reconciliation.

How many times, dear Lord,

you must have wished for blessed solitude –

from the daily demands of people hungry for hope, anxious for healing or reassurance –

a crust, a touch, a word from God.

And then the constant surveillance of hostile eyes and ears

and the nagging drip of disapproval.

What wouldn’t you give, just now,

for one friendly, familiar face or voice!

You expected it would come to this

and in the Garden it is finally settled.

Among the olives

you have wrapped your love around the fragments of humanity, the discards and disasters,

and borne the gross weight

of history’s damned, appalling record.

This is your cup.

It will cost you everything.

But we cannot ask it not to do. Our life is hidden in your death, our hope in your despair.

In the very moment

when you feel you are forsaken, poured out, generations are graced into life.

## Meditation

Duncan Wilson

Jesus said:

in very truth I tell you,

# Good Friday 2

## Opening Scripture: John 12 paraphrased

unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a solitary seed and nothing more;

but if it dies, it bears a rich harvest.

Whoever loves himself is lost,

but he who disregards himself in this world will be kept safe for eternal life.

If anyone would serve me, they must follow me; where I am is where my servant will be.

Now my soul is in turmoil and what am I to say? ‘Father save me from this hour?’

No, it was for this very purpose that I came to this hour.

Now is the hour of judgement for this world; now shall the prince of this world be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth

I shall draw everyone to myself.

This he said to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## 2 Corinthians 5

For anyone united to Christ, there is a new creation:

the old order has gone,

the new order has already begun.

God was in Christ

reconciling the world to himself

no longer holding our misdeeds against us.

Christ was innocent of sin, and yet God made him one with the sinfulness of humanity

so that in him

we might be made one

with the righteousness of God.

## Prayers of approach

1. We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross,

sign of human shame and symbol of divine grace.

Like Jesus, we would follow faithfully the way you set before us;

like Jesus we would die to self and live for you.

Here we offer you our worship and our lives. May your name, so often derided by our world, and sometimes dishonoured by our own actions, be praised throughout your church

as we open ourselves to your love and mercy; through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

1. At the foot of the cross we gather, dear God, to witness again

the dying of your Son, our friend,

our saviour, Jesus.

We came also to bear witness how his suffering and death touch and change us,

save and redeem us.

Beyond words of explanation we know

that he is here, upon the cross, on account of his love for us and people everywhere.

Therefore

we are not here as voyeurs of some grotesque drama,

nor mourners come too early for the wake, but suppliants of his mercy

with hearts grieving, yet more grateful

than prayers can express.

This, then, is our simple offering,

that we keep faith, so far as we may, and watch with him, even over him

for your sake.

Amen. Duncan Wilson

# Good Friday – Evening

## Scripture: Ephesians 1 and 2 paraphrased

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Before the foundation of the world

he chose us in Christ to be his people, to be full of love.

In Christ our release is secured and our sins forgiven

through the shedding of his blood. In the richness of his grace

God has lavished on us all wisdom and insight.

God has made known his secret purpose, that the universe,

everything in heaven and on earth, might be made one in Christ.

In our natural condition

we lay under the condemnation of God. But God, rich in mercy,

and because of his great love towards us, brought us to life with Christ

when we were dead because of our sins; It is by grace we are saved.

We gather, dear God, as evening falls to recount the events of this day

and to keep a vigil over our dying Lord.

We come to bear witness to One whose whole life

was lived in the light of your truth and love.

We come, if we may, to keep faith with him

in his loneliest hour, to show our thankfulness,

and to mark his self-less sacrifice. Amen.

## Prayer

Duncan Wilson

Lord my heart sings, like the blackbird, feathered flautist,

serenading the snowdrops, heralding the spring.

Lord my soul leaps like a hare,

bounding across the fields. Bursting with energy, heralding the spring.

Lord my spirit soars, like a bird, high above,

descending to gather twigs, build a nest,

heralding the spring.

Lord my hearts sinks, plummeting into black despair, caught in a severe late frost, confronted with a sealed tomb, winter with no hope of spring.

Lord, bird song proclaims your victory,

light floods the garden, revealing an empty grave, Christ is risen!

My heart sings.

Risen Lord, you sprang forth, strode out,

into all the world,

meeting people on their own patch, my soul leaps.

# Easter

## Lord my heart sings

Living Lord, we are uplifted! filled with joy and hope legacy of your costly victory, gaining direct access to God. My spirit soars.

Lord my heart sings,

a glorious Easter anthem, proclaiming Christ is risen, happiness surges within me, Lord, I will never stop singing.

Y Mochyn Daear

Wow! Amazing, stupendous, incredible, remarkable, startling, marvellous, wonderful, glorious, splendid, superb, astounding, astonishing, stunning, fantastic, extraordinary.

Jesus Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

Creative God,

you turn the shadow of death

into the brightness of a new morning lift our hearts and minds

with the hope and joy of the Easter Gospel;

you transform the suffering of earth into the wholeness of heaven heal our brokenness and division with the peace and love

of the Easter Gospel;

you transpose the injustice of society into the pattern of friendship

change our selfishness and suspicion

with the truth and trust of the Easter Gospel.

Jesus,

no longer sealed by stone in death but revealed as Redeemer of life, you live in us!

# Easter morning

Nigel Warner

# Easter day

Jesus,

no longer mocked as misguided Messiah but celebrated as cosmic Christ,

you live in us!

Jesus,

no longer banished as a has-been but transformed into today’s truth, you live in us!

Holy Spirit, breath of life,

re-awaken us to powers of good; renew us in practices of forgiveness; refresh us for patterns of praise.

This is the day that God has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia!

Amen.

From old wood new life grows.

From death sprouts forth the buds of spring. And from you, Lord of our hearts,

come all that we need to be your people. In love you draw us to you.

In grace you offer a way through our sin.

In weakness you show the power of sacrifice.

And here we give ourselves afresh. We recognise your hold on our lives,

not because you are stronger, or hold all the aces, but because your love, which knows no end, nailed you to the cross – for us.

In gratitude, we give you our praise. We say again – you are our Lord.

We give ourselves to you. Take us and use us,

for your glory. Amen.

Terry Oakley

# An Easter prayer

Duncan Tuck

Can it be you, Lord? The way the sun,

filtering through the leaves strikes the muddy pool and makes it gleam,

as if it were clear and clean –

# Easter 3

## The risen Christ in everyday life

Can it be you, Lord, doing the same with me?

Can it be you, Lord? The flicker of recognition in a stranger’s face

that quickens to a smile as though finding a friend but not being sure –

Can it be you, Lord, doing the same with me?

Can it be you, Lord?

The morning paper

dropping through the letter box a world of misery and deception in pages of faces

looking up at me,

but surely not in hope ? –

Can it be you, Lord, doing the same with me?

Can it be you, Lord?

In every moment of the day a nudge of wondering

if you also pass this way,

not like a ghost, all cold and fear, but like fresh air, bright light, warm hand, familiar voice –

It must be you, Lord, coming this way with me.

Duncan Wilson

Good Shepherd Jesus, inwardly, we hunger and thirst but most of the time

no-one suspects we do. Surrounded by people, even family,

# Easter 4

## Reading: John 10:1-11 Prayer: Good Shepherd Jesus

we can still feel isolated, undervalued, even unloved. We hunger for recognition, intimacy, assurance –

we thirst for absent joy.

Can you, will you, nourish and refresh us, Good Shepherd Jesus?

Can you, will you, love and cherish us?

We hunger also for peace and for truth.

Our world sets before us a diet of deceptions, plying us with a thin gruel of empty attractions and unpalatable attitudes

that neither fill nor feed our spirits, while daily strife and violent conflict

are meat and drink to a whole generation of child soldiers and refugees.

Can you, will you, nourish and refresh us, Good Shepherd Jesus?

Can you, will you, lead us in the paths of truth and peace?

Good Shepherd Jesus, you lead us and feed us, you call our names,

you guard our door,

you come between us and evil, you lay down your life.

We recognise and welcome your voice. Help us then to follow you,

to reject all impostors and to keep faith with you. Amen.

# Prayers for other people

Lord Jesus Christ,

who, in the image of the Good Shepherd revealed not only your love

but also your responsibility for all humankind, we would be good shepherds too.

As we have received all creation as a gift from you and as you have made us brothers and sisters to one another,

may we watch with you over those people who are least able to protect themselves.

Make us ready to challenge exploitation and abuse

wherever we find it

and to stand with those who feel powerless against commercial interest and political greed.

Make us sensitive also

to those whose lives stand to be ruined

by personal experiences of rejection or failure.

In our relationships with others help us to imitate your gentleness and mercy with us.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

# Easter 5

## Opening Scripture: Psalm 31 paraphrased

In you, Lord, is our refuge;

you do not expose us to shame but by your power you save us, you bend and hear us

and hasten to our rescue:

You lead and guide

where evil will not ensnare us

and, therefore, in you we put our trust and your face shines upon your servants with unfailing love.

Amen.

## The Gospel: John 14:1-14 ‘Put your fears to rest’

***Prayer***

We do worry, dear Lord,

especially about fending for ourselves

when the guidance and confidence

of leaders we have come to depend upon, is no longer near at hand.

For some it may be the loss of a mother or a son, for others, a friend or a teacher.

Like your disciples,

we are uncertain about the future, our own abilities and strengths

and how to make the right decisions.

Therefore, we are glad of your assurance that you will not leave us bereft,

also that you will send your own spirit, whose power and gifts are endless,

to be our encourager.

It does not seem possible that any one of us might do greater things than you

yet we see from history how great have been the deeds of those who put their trust in you.

Therefore, our prayer is

that we may hold nothing back, but learn to take you at your word,

and expect you to work wonders even through us.

Help us to test our desires and motives so that we may want only

that which honours your name

and serves your loving purpose for our world.

May we not shrink back when we realise what it may cost for our hopes, and your will,

to become a reality.

Amen.

Lord Jesus,

sometimes we feel that the world is falling apart. Perhaps every generation has thought the same. We see the breakdown of family ties,

the gradual erosion of community, and poor people cast adrift

by a world more wealthy than ever before.

But your life and teaching strike a different note

that calls for building each other up.

Help us find ways to do this.

Give us grace

to discover you in both friend and stranger,

to accept other people with open hand and heart, to be ready to share whatever we have.

Help us to say and do

whatever will give people greater confidence in you

and help them realise how much you care.

Help us make fast with bonds of peace the unity which your Spirit gives.

Amen.

As so often happens, dear Lord

you come to us when least expected, when we are busy and preoccupied and least inclined to turn to you.

It makes us wonder

at the depth of your thoughtfulness, your anticipation of our moods.

God of surprises,

come near when least expected and make ordinary moments bright.

## Prayers for peace

Duncan Wilson

# Easter 6

## Prayer

As to Peter and Thomas, and all their friends, so to us you come

with every dawn and breakfast table.

You spread the feast of your love and goodness before us and the failure of our labours melts away.

Just when we are looking back at wasted effort,

or facing the day empty handed,

you turn disappointment into anticipation. Tired or discouraged,

your companionship transforms us.

God of surprises,

show us how good can come even from ‘lost causes’.

When, therefore,

we encounter others in our daily lives who are heavy with things gone wrong or at odds with the world,

put something in our hands or our hearts, or in our conversations,

that may give to them what you have given us – your unconditional acceptance,

the assurance of your love,

and real purpose for the future.

God of surprises,

Show us that we always have something to give

though it may take some finding.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

# Eucharistic prayer for Easter

Responsive passages from the ‘Exultet’

Living God, out of chaos and darkness your creative word called light into being and life in all its fulness.

Though in the garden we chose to disobey you and death entered our world

you are the bringer of life from the places of death.

You saved Noah and his family from the Flood and passed over the children of Israel

when death struck the firstborn of Egypt.

You led your people out

from slavery in Egypt and exile in Babylon. You saved Jonah from the belly of the whale and Daniel from the lions’ den.

By your power Sarah and Hannah brought forth sons and Ruth the stranger became the mother of kings.

*All* **Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!**

**Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour!**

**Christ has conquered! Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

**Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!**

**Rejoice, O Mother Church!**

**The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy,**

**echoing the mighty song of all God’s people!**

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Born on a dark night, during his life on earth

the light of your Son’s presence brought hope to the lost

and healing to the sick.

He preached good news to the poor and ate with sinners.

For this he was pursued to the death.

[For this, the Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:

‘This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this is remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We praise you that the darkness could not hold him for he was raised at dawn

to bring new life to the world.

*All* **By his power sin is purged, innocence restored to the fallen, joy to the mourners;**

**hatred is vanquished, tyranny laid low; harmony reigns, heaven and earth are united and humanity is reconciled with God.**

**The Morning Star has risen, never again to set.**

His light is become our light; his Spirit is ours; may our lives shine with the radiance of his glory

and this bread and wine lead us to the feasting of the Kingdom, where we shall be raised up to see him face to face,

in the glory of the blessed Trinity, through all ages.

*All* **Amen.**

Colin Thompson

# Pentecost

## Pentecost

Lord, we come with expectancy on this Pentecost Sunday when we remember how the Holy Spirit first came to the disciples filling then with power and courage. We praise you for the strength and purpose given to them that day to tell others about you. Fill us too Lord as we worship this morning and may we too be given the strength and courage to witness for you in our world.

Jennifer Martin

## Spirit of love, joy, peace

Use the Taizé chant ‘Ubi Caritas’ as a sung response to each prayer Spirit of Love, you pour out your life into young and old,

we pray for all those who are vulnerable, marginalised, and abused because of their age.

May your love inspire our love in our community so that all are included.

*All* **Ubi Caritas**

Spirit of joy, you pour our your energy into the poor and oppressed, we pray for all those who are exploited, downtrodden,

and made slaves because of our economy.

May your joy of freedom drive our work for justice so that all are liberated

*All* **Ubi Caritas**

Spirit of peace, you pour out your comfort into all who are in conflict,

we pray for all those who are caught up in war, violence and estranged because of hostility.

May your peace lead us towards reconciliation, so that all are living in unity.

*All* **Ubi Caritas**

Jesus said to them ‘Peace be with you.’

Terry Oakley

# Peace-making Christ

Peace making Christ,

our world is racked with violence and disquiet.

The politics of terror and calculated response

leave behind rivers of broken lives and tormented consciences.

The pressures of living gather like storm clouds

and sometimes they break and batter and bruise us, driving us to the very edge.

We come open-handed, eager for your gift of peace,

ready to be enfolded in your Father’s blessing,

longing to see the universe from the perspective of your love and know in the depths of our souls

that you are Lord

and that all shall be well.

And every manner of thing be well. Lord, give us the gift of peace.

Jesus said to them, ‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’

Commissioning Christ, uncertainty reigns.

There is no centre any longer. People turn this way and that,

seeking a fulfilment which always eludes them,

their laughter tinged with sadness, their success haunted by hollowness.

The world needs your Word, for in it lies the Truth

that all life is woven from your Father’s love,

and that meaning is to be found in returning to him and living lovingly.

So we pray for your Church,

the bearers of your commission.

We give thanks for this place

where your word has been spoken and heard

your comfort received and your challenge heeded.

We ask that you will send us out again

to be bearers of your love and heralds of your Word that the world may hear and rejoice.

Lord commission us anew.

‘He breathed on them, and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”’ Pentecostal Christ,

the task seems overwhelming, our resources so slender

just as once it did in Jerusalem, the world hustling and bustling,

speaking every language but yours.

Then the breath of your Spirit transformed weakness into strength,

forging the world’s hope from the crucible of despair, reversing Babel

with good news which each heard in their own language.

Touch us with Pentecostal fire,

breathe your Spirit into our lives.

Gentle breath of God, whispering comfort to our ears,

bringing messages of hope and healing, speaking truth and building confidence come and inspire us now.

David G Cornick

# Transforming Spirit

Strong wind of God, blowing love through the nations of earth, challenging injustice and confronting violence

stirring change and bringing liberation, come and move us now.

Hurricane of God,

sweeping purposefully across the universe, overturning deceit and hate,

removing hunger and poverty, eradicating inequality,

come and change us now.

Terry Oakley

Blessed be you Spirit of God

# Blessed be you Spirit of God

for you inspire us, you renew our life you restore our faith and revive our love.

Blessed be you Breath of God

for you inspire us, you remove our selfishness

you relieve our stuffiness and redeem our situation.

Blessed be you Wind of God

for you inspire us, you redirect our priorities

you recharge our enthusiasm and refill our hopes.

Blessed be you, Spirit of God,

for you rouse, refresh, reinvigorate us.

Amen.

Terry Oakley

Come, Holy Spirit, come air, wind and breath of God,

# Come, Holy Spirit

fill us with new life, waken us to unexpected possibilities,

speak to us your Word of Good News.

Whisper tenderly forgiveness, blow away cobwebs of fear, inspire our songs of faith.

Come, Holy Spirit, come air, wind and breath of God, in the name of Jesus we meet

and call for you to be present with us.

Amen.

Terry Oakley

Come, Breath of God inspire us,

remove our selfishness, relieve our stuffiness,

relax our worry.

Come, Wind of God disturb us,

redirect our priorities, recharge our enthusiasm,

refill our hopes.

Come, Spirit of God purify us, renew our life, restore our faith, revive our love.

Spirit of God, rest, refresh and rouse us.

# Come, breath of God

When we are frightened, holding our breath,

give us confidence to face our fears.

When we are complacent, careless, apathetic, shake us up, challenge us to care.

When we are selfish, greedy, hateful,

lead us to remorse and repentance.

Here and now, we acknowledge our need for courage. Here and now, we ask to be awake to injustice.

Here and now, we confess our sin

and promise renewed commitment in love. Creative, forgiving, holy God forgive us and empower us with your Spirit.

Amen.

Suddenly it arrived, like a violent wind. Rattling the windows.

Tongues of fire resting on each.

Words are inadequate

to describe this momentous moment.

Spot on. Impeccable timing. Being in the right place.

At the precise moment.

Anxious awaiting the promised gift. United in a common purpose.

Resolved to serve.

Even more amazing,

was the resultant change. In the gathered few.

No longer afraid. Unlock the door,

got out into the world.

No longer tongue tied. Speak out boldly.

Proclaim the truth.

To those who want to hear good news for every one the Risen Christ is Lord.

Terry Oakley

**Kairos:** Mark 13:33

Y Mochyn Daear

God –

*All* **Your love surrounds us**

Christ –

*All* **Your peace enfolds us**

Spirit –

*All* **Your breath awakens us**

God,

fire – setting us ablaze

sap – flowing through our veins

ground – rooting us to the earth

Christ,

truth – planting truth within word – encouraging our speech heart – awakening us to love

Spirit,

cord – linking us to the stars and to the earth breath – harmonising our breathing

guide – pointing us to God

Worship with us – God, Christ and Spirit, unifying us each with the other

and each to all that is beyond our knowing. Amen.

# Trinity

Vaughan Jones

# God, Christ, Spirit

Vaughan Jones

# Eucharistic prayer for Trinity Sunday

Trinity of power, wisdom and love,

God from all eternity, present in every passing moment, we give you thanks for the wonders of creation

and for the story of your constant love. With Moses before the burning bush words fail us in your presence.

With Naomi we have been in exile, knowing hunger and loss; with Ruth we have come home, but as strangers to your law.

With Isaiah in the temple, we cannot bear the vision of your holiness

and long for your fire to burn away our sin. Knowing our need and hearing our cry you came to embrace our humanity

and in the longed-for Christ

tasted deep of our joys and sorrows.

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Yet we drove him out from among us,

and he whose dying words were of forgiveness was made the victim of our sin.

From the silence and darkness of death he rose; his victory is ours by faith,

proclaimed and shared in this, the harvest of his sacrifice.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed

took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:

‘This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this is remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come, Creator God: renew the face of the earth.

Come, eternal Word of the Father: remake us in your likeness.

Come, Holy Spirit: transform these gifts and our lives

that here on earth we may sing the songs of the new creation and in heaven see your glory,

one God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

Colin Thompson

# Eucharistic prayer for the transfiguration

We praise you, almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, Giver of life.

that amid the shadows of our journey you make yourself known. You brought order and beauty out of primeval chaos;

you gave a child of promise to Abraham and Sarah;

you summoned Moses from the burning bush to fight injustice

and in cloud and darkness revealed your will on Sinai. Hannah and Manoah saw you in ascending flame, your name too wonderful to speak.

Elijah knew you in a still, small voice; you called Isaiah when the temple shook and touched his lips with fire.

He heard the seraphim calling as they flew,

and we too join their song of praise:

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed was that hour when the Dayspring from on high

dawned upon us, full of grace and truth.

We praise you that your Son was born of Love to dwell among us;

for the beauty of his parables and his acts of healing power. Truly his words and deeds shone in our midst,

signs of a love which sought us when we were far from home.

On the mountain his disciples saw his glory for a moment as he spoke with Moses and Elijah,

yet they could not understand. Soon they forsook him and fled, when he was led out to die.

But he came to stand among them in his risen power

and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Now he is ascended to reign on high

and pours out his gifts upon us through his Spirit.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed

took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:

‘This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

May his sorrows and his victory go with us through all our darkness and our doubt,

and transfigure them with the glory of his presence. May we know Christ in the breaking of this bread and in the sharing of this wine,

that we may receive him crucified and risen

in the fruits which earth has given and human hands have made.

And, at the last, may we behold him with unclouded eyes in the new Jerusalem, city of everlasting light,

where with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit, he reigns throughout the ages.

*All* **Amen.**

Strong Spirit Wind

blow through all creation,

fill the world with love’s transforming power.

Bright Spirit Fire

rest upon your people,

touch each of us with warmth and light.

Translate our weak words

so that all may hear and understand the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Enthuse the Church

with courage and excitement,

so that people may be challenged and amazed By your intoxicating joy.

Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Colin Thompson

# Strong Spirit wind

Peter Trow

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