

**PENTECOST SUNDAY ORDER OF SERVICE**

*READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:*

*Welcome to week 10 of our worship together, at home.*

*Please have a Bible by your side for your use.*

*We suggest that those of you who are watching live on Facebook, have the links to today’s two songs already open and set to play as our worship comes to an end - so that you can sing them as a continuous part of our worship today.*

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

*We sing the 1st & last verses & chorus of ‘The Spirit Lives to Set Us Free’, giving everyone time to join us for our Facebook live worship. (lyrics printed overleaf)*

* *Once again, I invite you to take this moment to stop whatever else you are doing. This is God’s time. Sit comfortably. Picture Jesus with you, sitting alongside you and be still with Him. He is truly there.*
* *Now picture our church family all joining you to worship God in this moment in their own homes. Know that we are worshipping together, even though we can’t see each other.*
* *Remember that we are one in the Lord.*
* *If you aren’t following the service on FB, we suggest that, if you are alone, you say the prayers and readings aloud. If you are with others, choose someone to lead and the rest of you join in with the words in bold. On FB, simply join in the words in bold.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you**

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Chris introduces the worship, saying:*

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord

and we have walked with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross.

We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death.

We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.

We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.

And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people,

through whom we make Christ known to the world.

*RESPONSORY*

As we wait in silence **Fill us with your Spirit.**

As we listen to your word, **Fill us with your Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty, **Fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing, **Fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing **Fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping, **Fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering, **Fill us with your Spirit.**

*Catherine now reads a ‘Children’s story.’*

*We now pray the ‘prayer for the Day’ together:*

**Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire;**

**Strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*BIBLE READINGS*

*Acts 2.1-11 is read, then Chris says*

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us!**

*The Gospel reading: John 7.37-39*

*THE SERMON*

* Have you ever been in a situation where you haven’t been able to understand what someone else has been saying – or they haven’t been able to understand you?
* Perhaps you and they spoke a different language; or one of you has been unable to express themselves clearly, or hear clearly; or perhaps you’ve been using Zoom and found that your internet connection has been poor and the words have become distorted?
* It’s so frustrating when we can’t communicate with someone else. When we can’t we realise how divided we can be from others.
* That’s part of what our Acts 2 reading is about. All those people it lists who heard the disciples that first Christian Pentecost came from all over the known world and spoke different languages from each other and so were divided from each other.
* But when the Spirit came, they all could hear the ‘Mighty acts of God,’ spoken about in their own language – and so those divisions were overcome by the Spirit.
* The Good News of Jesus is for everyone, whatever their background, nationality or race or language. There can be no place in the church for discrimination on grounds of nationality or race or someone’s ability to express themselves
* It’s great that LHC is a church that has folk from a wide variety of backgrounds – white British, West Indian, Southern African, Eastern European, S E Asian. Wonderful when we can gather together – and I miss it and you all and long for the day when we can be together again!
* But even when folk speak the same language as each other there can be divisions – we might use the same word as someone else but mean something different from them!
* This can happen in the Church – in the broader Church all Christians speak what appears to be the same language but what matters for each of us most of all can vary greatly – for Evangelicals words of Bible, for Liberals the language of human reason, for Catholics the language of historic teaching of the Church etc. Differences of emphasis can and do cause divisions & take us in different directions.
* So we need the Spirit to come upon us afresh! We need Him to make us one in Christ Jesus, to drive us towards seeking to overcome the barriers that we erect between each other. ‘The Spirit lives to set us free, he binds us all in unity.’
* When Spirit drives us towards unity, He knows where He is going. If we let Him lead us, we can’t go astray, because His ultimate destination is Jesus. It’s in Jesus we can find a common Way, Truth and Life. Jesus said that Spirit would lead us into all Truth – the truth that is most clearly revealed in the Scriptures
* So never forget our need to pray for the Spirit to come upon us, and upon the whole Church, afresh, to overcome all divisions that may exist within the Church; to unite us, to lead all of us more and more into The Truth; and then to use the whole Church – ourselves included – to speak a clear and unambiguous Gospel message to the world today.
* Spirit of truth, lead us into all truth, unite all your people, give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen us to proclaim the word and works of God. Amen!

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:*

**We believe and trust in God the Father;**

**We believe and trust in Christ his Son;**

**We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit;**

**We believe and trust in the Three in One. Amen**

*INTERCESSIONS*

*Catherine leads our Prayers of Intercession*

John said, ‘You are the Spirit of Truth’.

(John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13)

All the forces of darkness will seek to confuse and obscure the light of Truth in our hour of need.

All the powers of this world will appear to make the Holy Spirit look useless, worthless, distant, small and ineffective — like nothing. That is the goal of Satan.

**But You are the Spirit of Truth.**

**In our moment of need, we trust that You will rest upon us.**

**We trust that you will give us the Truth that we need to be faithful.**

Jesus said, “When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will glorify me.”

(John 16:13–14)

The goal of all the truth that the Spirit brings is the glory of Jesus Christ.

The heart of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to magnify the beauty and presence of Jesus in our minds and hearts.

**You are the Spirit of Truth.**

**You don’t let us forget the truth that Jesus is within us.**

Peter said, “‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.’

([1 Peter 1:24–25](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Pet%201.24%E2%80%9325))

The Holy Spirit is the imperishable seed by which we are born again.

When the imperishable Spirit enters us, we are reassured that in the hour of trial, if we are torn, we will be restored to perfect wholeness; if we are crushed, we will stand in triumph; if we die in utter weakness, we will live in unshakeable strength; if we sink in quicksand, we find we stand on an eternal foundation.

**You are the Spirit of Truth.**

**In the hour of trial, you restore us to perfect wholeness.**

**You lift us up to stand in triumph.**

**You reveal to us that we live in unshakeable strength.**

**You show us that we stand on an eternal foundation.**

Paul said, ‘…you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

(Romans 8:15)

The Spirit bears witness that God is not just our rock, but that He is concerned for us as a Father.

And, as His children, we are also His heirs.

So when we suffer, the Spirit testifies to us that we are heirs of infinite glory.

He testifies to us that all that we lose on earth is not worth keeping because the glory we are about to gain is infinitely better.

His work is to seal that hope in our hearts because we belong to God.

**You are the Spirit of Truth.**

**You bear witness that we are the children of God and God’s heirs.**

**You hold us in the hope that the glory that we gain on earth is infinitely better than all that we lose on earth.**

Jesus said, “Do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit”

([Mark 13:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%2013.11))

If in a time of trial, the opportunity arises for us to speak for Jesus to our persecutor, the Holy Spirit will rest upon us to bring to our mind what we need to say.

If, in His power, He wants us speechless, we need say nothing.

If He wants us to speak, He will give us the words we need. Count on it. Trust him.

**You are the Spirit of Truth.**

**If You want us to speak the truth about Jesus to others, we trust You to give us the words to do it.**

**Help us to count on You more for all our needs.**

Paul said, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.”

([2 Corinthians 13:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor%2013.14))

As the Spirit of Truth rests upon us, He gives us Himself as the third person of the Trinity.

In Him we taste the living, precious, personal presence of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

They are one, but they are also three.

We experience the Father’s care and tenderness for His child.

We experience the Son’s redeeming love to cover all our sin.

And we experience the Spirit sustaining our faith.

**You are the Spirit of Truth.**

**Thank you for You.**

**Thank you that through you we can taste the divinity of the Trinity.**

**Thank you for the tenderness of the Father.**

**Thank you for the Redeeming love of the Son.**

**Thank you for how You sustain us in our faith.**

**Amen**

*THE PEACE*

God made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

*We share the Peace with each other*

*On Facebook, we now have the Eucharistic Prayer, with the standard responses. If you aren’t on Facebook, read 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 now*

*COMMUNION*

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*The Breaking of the Bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread**

*As Chris and Catherine receive the Bread and the Wine, on behalf of all of us, you are invited to make a ‘Spiritual Communion.’*

*After Communion Prayer:*

**Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal:**

**Open our lips by your Spirit that every tongue may tell of your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Next our church prayer whose words are taken from the Hillsong United worship song, ‘Oceans’:*

**Spirit lead us where our trust is without borders  
Let us walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call us. Take us deeper than our feet could ever wander  
And our faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of our Saviour. Amen**

## The Dismissal

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.

With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.

Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.

Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;

the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.

With the new wine of the Spirit

they proclaim your reign of love.

Amid the birth pangs of the new creation

the way of light is made known.

Source of freedom, giver of life,

blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

***THE COMMISSION***

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God’s mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God’s Church here in Lord’s Hill and Lord’s Wood, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God’s future, trusting him to be your guide?

**By the Spirit’s power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love? **We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need? **We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God? **We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world’s dark places? **We will.**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Today we have remembered the coming of God’s power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

CHRIS GIVES THE BLESSING:

May the Spirit,

who hovered over the waters when the world was created,

breathe into you the life he gives. **Amen.**

May the Spirit who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us make you joyful in the service of the Lord. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Filled with the Spirit’s power,

go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

***We invite you to end our worship today by either singing or reading aloud the worship song whose lyrics we’ve included after the words of this service***

***Thank you for joining our church family today. May God make His face to shine upon and give you His peace.***

**WORSHIP SONG LYRICS**

**The Spirit Lives to Set Us Free**

The Spirit lives to set us free,  
Walk, walk in the light.  
He binds us all in unity,  
Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light of the Lord.

The Spirit lives in you and me,  
Walk, walk in the light;  
His light will shine for all to see,  
Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light of the Lord.

Damien Lundy (1944-1997)

Words: © 1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

**River of God -**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TZ3wTS0GU8>

Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing where ever it goes.  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here.  
  
Chorus: *The river of God, sets our feet a dancing  
The river of God, fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God, fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here.*  
  
The river of God is teeming with life  
All who touch it can be revived  
Those who linger on this river shore  
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord  
  
Repeat chorus  
  
(Instrumental)  
  
Up to the mountain we love to go  
To find the presence of the Lord  
Along the banks of the river we run  
We dance with laughter giving praise to the son  
  
Repeat chorus  
  
(Instrumental)  
  
Down the mountain, the river flows  
And it brings refreshing where ever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here.

Repeat chorus

Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com/) Songwriters: Tarver Phillip F

The Rivers of God lyrics © Kingdom Glory, Praise Hill Publishing Company

**Oceans**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GGFb6LcX3U>

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep  
My faith will stand

And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand  
Will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now

So I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

Chorus: *Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Saviour*

Repeat chorus x 3

I will call upon Your name  
Keep my eyes above the waves  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
I am Yours and You are mine

Source: [LyricFind](https://www.lyricfind.com/" \t "_blank)

Songwriters: Joel Houston / Matt Crocker / Salomon Lighthelm

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

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