

The Wind

A Communion Service



Approaching God

Praise the Lord; praise his glory and power.
Bow down before the Holy One when he appears.
The voice of the Lord is heard in all its might and majesty.
The voice of the Lord makes the lightning flash,
The Lord's voice shakes the oaks
and strips the leaves from the trees
While everyone in his Temple shouts
Glory to God!

Glory to God!

[Psalm 29]

Lord, our God, how great you are!
You are clothed with majesty and glory
You spread out the heavens and cover yourself with light,
Your light shines on the waters.
You ride on the wind, making the clouds your chariots;
Lightning flashes like messengers from you.
The Lord looks at the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they pour out smoke.

They all depend on you;
by your breath they are created;
The wind of your Spirit breathes new life into the world.
Lord, you have made so many things!
How wisely you have created them all!
I will sing to the Lord all my life.
As long as I live, I will sing praises to my God
My gladness comes from him
Praise the Lord, my innermost being!

Praise the Lord!

[from Psalm 104]

HYMN

The Commandments

Love is like the wind, powerful to change us,
gentle to comfort and encourage us.
God is Love and he commands us
to love him and to love each other.

Jesus said *The first and greatest commandment is,
'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.'* *The
second commandment is like it. 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*

Lord give us grace to live by your laws

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Father, we regret that too often life becomes like chasing the wind;
clutching at elusive aims and emptiness;
our dreams are swept away like leaves in a winter gale
and doubts rise like waves in an ocean tempest.
We struggle to understand life's deep truths and mysteries,
when words are as empty as withered grasses in the breeze.

Father, the wind evokes our fear, our sense of awe.
We remember our life is just a puff of wind in the great scheme of things:
but the powerful moving of your Spirit, as at the beginning of everything,
still rocks our lives, sweeping away the dust and cobwebs
from our accumulation of thoughts and emotions;
stimulating and refreshing until we glow with your grace
– turned like rusty drainpipes into melodious instruments of praise.

You tug at our lives. We feel your closeness.
We long to worship you, to listen to the music of your voice
and be carried along in your way for our lives.
Father, this is our experience of your glory,
your love, your mercy, your forgiveness:
Let it be the renewing of our lives.

Help us to find all this in communion with you now.

THE WORD

BIBLE READINGS

HYMN

SERMON

PRAYERS

Thanks

[Quiet thoughts of gratitude]

Father, we give you thanks that we know you in the wind of your Spirit,
the breath of life,
like the comforting caress of a gentle breeze,
the slipstream of your healing, cleansing grace;
the awesome power of your justice and judgement;
the parting of dark clouds of sorrow and regret;
with light-rays of hope
and the assurance that all will be well.

For the Church

[reflection on specific church needs]

Lord, the mighty, rushing wind of your Spirit at Pentecost has never ceased in the life of your Church. We long for that experience for ourselves and the worldwide church today, empowering, enabling, gifting, exciting your people to live and work and wait for the fulfilment of your Kingdom.

For the world

[Reflecting on some contemporary needs]

Lord Jesus, may we hear you powerful word as it once rang out in a raging storm on Galilee, *Peace! Be still!* Bring a calm among raging nations - silence the sounds of war
- hold in your love the cries of human need - especially of the children, the homeless, refugees. Gather to yourself all who are swept aside by the greed and thoughtlessness of others.

For ourselves and those close to us

Lord Jesus you told us that life built on the foundation of your words will withstand the most fearful life-storms. Give us that faith in you, for ourselves and for all whom we hold in our hearts today that we may pray with confidence, knowing that with you all things will be well.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

May your holy name be honoured.

May your kingdom come.

May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need.

Forgive us the wrong we have done,

Just as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us.

Do not bring us to hard testing without

Keeping us safe from evil.

**The kingdom, with all power and glory,
belongs to you alone.**

OFFERING

HYMN

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lord our God, from the storm winds of creation to the torrent of sounds at Pentecost you have revealed your glory in your mighty works, and in guiding your people with wisdom, power and love. We give thanks that when the time was right you gave yourself to the world in Jesus Christ your Son. In him you shared our life completely, drawing the whole world to yourself through his Cross and Resurrection. We recall how when the hour of Jesus' glory came, he sat at supper with his disciples. A night breeze wafted through the upper room where they met. The same wind was stirring among the olives in Gethsemane. He took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke the bread and gave it to his friends. He said, *Take this. Eat it. This is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me.* In the same way, at the end of the supper he took the cup and said, *Drink from this all of you: this cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it to remember me.*

Lord Jesus, we remember your suffering for us in Gethsemane and on the Cross. May we share your resurrection glory. Let us feel the breath of your Spirit as this bread and wine become our way of receiving your life and love into our own lives and uniting us with all who share these everyday gifts.

We come to take the bread and wine, not because we are worthy but because you have invited us. Here we shall give you all honour and glory together with saints and angels and all the company of heaven.

[Together we receive bread and wine in the customary way. The presiding minister dismisses the people with a brief blessing]

PRAYER

Wind of the Spirit of God, love of Jesus, excite us with your praise. Help us to share the wonder of your grace and truth with others as and where and when you call us.

For the glory of your kingdom.

HYMN

BLESSING

May the breath of God our Creator which gives life to all living things be our peace

May the breath of Jesus transform us to his likeness

May the breath of the Holy Spirit, who is all love, lead us out to live with sure hope of God's coming kingdom.

We go, carried on the wind of God's Spirit

