**New Kilpatrick**

**Podcast**

**Pentecost 2021**

**Acts 2:1-21 (retelling)**

**Intro**

Hello! I’m Roddy Hamilton the minister in New Kilpatrick Parish Church, and it is pentecost. Originally a harvest festival, 50 days after Passover, Christians have adopted it as the day we remember the promise of the Holy Spirit: the energy of God, the imagination, the creativity, the song, the anger, the motivation. It’s difficult to describe. The spirit is all the ‘doing’ words of God.

So today, we have a little chaos, which is only right after a season of resurrection stories. One leads to the other and what resurrection has shown us, Pentecost now gives the energy for.

So we dream, we talk, we imagine, we make… community, church, the body of Christ wherever we are.

**Prayer**

Holy God

Holy Imagination

Holy Energy

Holy Spirit

May we find new words to speak of old things

New music to lift old dreams

New colours to brighten old promises

New moments to hold old pains

May we believe

Trust

Hold

The Hope

Of your energy O God

To move us and shake us

Rattle us and comfort us

Challenge and guide us

With your spirit

Your intent

Your desire

For your kingdom

And in all we we don’t understand or control

Especially in today’s world

May we dare to speak of a new thing

Believe what the world says is impossible

And let your spirit

Your intent

Your poetry

Your song

Your dream

Your energy

Move us into our next moment

With love

With justice

With vision

And meet your spirit there

Holy

Helpful

Hallowed

Hear us as we join together

In that world wide prayer

Our father who is in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done on earth

As it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debts

As we forgive our debtors

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For yours is the kingdom

The power and the glory forever

Amen

**Reading Acts 2:1-21 (Katie)**

It was the feast of Pentecost and all the disciples were together.

Suddenly, without warning, the morning breeze grew into a strong wind, enough to make your hair fly, your coat pull back, and any hat you were wearing, fly away. The thing was, no one could tell where it was coming from. No one seemed to remember such a wind being forecast.

The wind blew up into a wildfire, like flames leaping between them, and instead of shouting in fear, they heard each other speaking in different languages. And all those who were there, could hear their own languages, and understand each other, all at the same time. It was amazing.

So there were Parthians and Medes and Elamites and so many others from so many other places I can’t pronounce, but that was the thing, that day, they could understand each other.

“Hey, they’re speaking our languages, describing God’s mighty works, and we can understand!” Their heads were spinning!

Just then, it hit Peter. Out of the blue, it dawned on him what was happening. It ***had*** been forecast. And he stood up and shouted above the noise so everyone could hear him.

“Guy’s, I know what’s happening. It’s what the prophet Joel forecast:

I will pour out my spirit on all,

Your sons and daughters will prophecy,

The young will see visions, and the old will dream dreams.

At the right time, my spirit will be released,

And you’ll all do amazing things”

That’s what’s happening!

That day hundreds of people heard Peter, and chose to follow God into the world, filled with the energy, the enthusiasm, the spirit, of Jesus.

**Pentecost** **Reflection**

Being Presbyterian and especially the Scottish variety, we haven’t always been known for our exuberance, or joy and so Pentecost has not always made it into our popular liturgy because, generally, there is a bit of chaos and unpredictability and we aren’t always comfortable with that.

Indeed when the church first evolved, there were no churches but house movements, different people in different places doing different things. There was no one line that people took in belief or how they spoke about God. Different towns and cities had their own bundle of stories, ways of expressing their beliefs.

Some groups may have had a scroll from the Old Testament, though it wasn’t known to Christians as that at the time. It was the Torah and the prophets. There would have been a pool of more contemporary stories, but not written down, just stories that grew in the telling.

It was hundreds of years later that we would ever get close to the familiar version of christianity we have now. There was no’ christianity’ as such. The roman empire gave us a definition of Christianity but only after hundreds of years. Until then there was quite a variety of expressions and beliefs and stories and gospels.

The thing about the spirit is, she doesn’t like settling down. When you hear of the spirit in the bible, there is always a restlessness, from the dawn of creation where the spirit brooded over the chaos, to the day of pentecost she is eager to get up and get on, to transform, renew, resurrect.

That perhaps feels for us now, like a promise as well as panic, that this great institution is the spirit’s cauldron of ideas and possibilities and imagination. The church of scotland is meeting in virtual general assembly this week and if there has ever been a more pertinent time for the spirit to do her restless reimagining, surely it is now. After a pandemic when so many things feel so much more fragile and the church is certainly one of those, then this season of pentecost, is the spirit’s gift and the church’s time, to live anew, to do less rearranging of deckchairs, and more radical reinterpreting, giving new meaning to what church means so we can give new life to the kingdom.

A promise, and a panic. Welcome to Pentecost and the gift of the spirit to the church, but who exactly is this spirit?

**Who is the spirit?**

1: Who is this spirit?

2: She shifts the grey into colour,

3: gathers silence into song.

4: She is the creator, and we will listen to her.

1: Who is this spirit?

2: Composer of the chorus in new every dawn,

3: Breeze making music in the leaves of trees.

4: She is the song and we will sing with her.

1: Who is this spirit?

2: Maker, creator, inventor, weaver,

3: dancer, designer, disorder, discerner.

4: She is our freedom and we will play with her.

1: Who is this spirit?

2: breath of fresh air in all we are now,

3: and reimagining who we are still yet to be.

4: She is our adventure and we will follow her.

1: Who is this spirit?

2: The artist that colours outside our lines,

3: and the invitation to go there, and learn something new.

4: She is the surprise and we will enjoy her.

1: Who is this spirit?
2: She is the comma rather than the full-stop

3: the vowel among consonants, the ellipsis, the dash

4: She is the wonder of what might happen next

1: Who is this spirit?

2: She is the energy of God within us,

3: the spirit of Jesus alive between us.

4: She is the church, and we will celebrate her.

**Prayer**

Spirit

May we tap into your dynamism

Provoking us to be your people

Alive in the world

With imagination

Vision

Dreams

Spirit

May we be shaped by your creativity

Renewing a world

Shaped by justice

Where the hungry have food

The ill have healing

The lonely have community

And so here

In this place

Crammed with hope

We bring pandemics and crisis

A world where the injustices are laid bare

And we can either forget

Or renew

May we choose to renew

May we choose to work towards a way of living that is fair

Balanced

Where poverty is felt as a moral stain

Where hunger feels it reduces us all

Where prejudice reflects our own lack of understanding

Where the gap between wealth and powerlessness changes how we live

Where respect is a value woven into welfare

And valuing each other is the road out of pandemics

Holy Spirit

Vital in our imaginations and faith

Our politics and values

We pray not for ourselves

But for you

To make us restless

Compassionate about love

Angry about injustice

And focus ourselves

Towards our neighbour

Away from being church

And into being the body of Christ

In this place

And every place we find ourselves

So we hold

All those who need holding in our prayers

Our family and friends

Our community and parish

Those ill

Those lonely

Those whose lives have spiralled downwards

Those whose jobs have gone

Education disrupted

And for a future built differently

On the needs of each other

Hear us

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**

Go in peace

In celebration

with laughter

With energy

With hope

With colour

With vision

With dreams

And the grace…

**News**

Thank you for letting us join you today wherever you are. Thank you to those who took part today: Katie who read the reimagining of the story, Carole, Muriel and David who asked ‘Who is this spirit?’

We’ve celebrated pentecost today but we begin the story of the early church next week, and explore our past which may be our future too, so join us again if you feel able to.

We are alive online at **[nkchurch.org.uk](http://nkchurch.org.uk)** and all our activities are there. Please do join us if you feel comfortable. Please look after each other and see you soon everyone. Take care.