**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MAY 31ST 2020, A DAY OF PENTECOST**

**A FAMILY SERVICE**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we celebrate the day of Pentecost, we remember the fulfillment of the promise of our Lord Jesus to ask the Father to send to us a Helper and Comforter – His Holy Spirit, who lives in us and among us and also He is a guarantee of our inheritance with Jesus in the new world to come – the new Jerusalem – hallelujah!

The readings are included here in full and the sermon which has been prepared by Michael Murray is also available in written form.

Let us continue to put our trust in the Lord even at this trying moments of the pandemic plague, as we gather together as a Christian community to worship our Lord. We would like to acknowledge the presence of children in this family service.

**Leader** :- *Let us pray*

*Precious everlasting Father, we thank you for the opportunity to gather together to worship you. We acknowledge your presence in our midst and we ask for your help to enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth – in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour we pray – amen.*

**GATHERING**

**Hymn MP 241 Holy Spirit we welcome you  ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5\_eGsD3gj0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5_eGsD3gj0" \t "_blank)) .**

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| **Holy Spirit, we welcome You (MP241)**  1  Holy Spirit, we welcome You, Holy Spirit, we welcome You! Move among us with holy fire as we lay aside all earthly desire, hands reach out and our hearts aspire. Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!  2  Holy Spirit, we welcome You, Holy Spirit, we welcome You! Let the breeze of Your presence blow that Your children here might truly know how to move in the Spirit’s flow. Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You! | 3  Holy Spirit, we welcome You, Holy Spirit, we welcome You! Please accomplish in us today some new work of loving grace, we pray – unreservedly – have Your way. Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You! |

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Almighty God, we confess that we cannot free ourselves from sin’s power. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep, and have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may want to do your will and glorify Your name. Amen.

**Absolution:** God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believes in Him will have everlasting life. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us. Confess, and believe that your sins are forgiven.

**Optional Hymn MP – And am forgiven -** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtdjrtAlKVs**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtdjrtAlKVs)

**THE WORD**

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| **Psalm 104:24-34,35(a)**  24 How many are your works, Lord!     In wisdom you made them all;     the earth is full of your creatures. **25**There is the sea, vast and spacious,     teeming with creatures beyond number—     living things both large and small. **26**There the ships go to and fro,     and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.  **27**All creatures look to you     to give them their food at the proper time. **28**When you give it to them,     they gather it up; when you open your hand,     they are satisfied with good things. | **29**When you hide your face,     they are terrified; when you take away their breath,     they die and return to the dust. **30**When you send your Spirit,     they are created,     and you renew the face of the ground.  **31**May the glory of the Lord endure forever;     may the Lord rejoice in his works— **32**he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,     who touches the mountains, and they smoke.  **33**I will sing to the Lord all my life;     I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. **34**May my meditation be pleasing to him,     as I rejoice in the Lord. **35**Praise the Lord.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+104&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15607b)] |

**1st Reading:- Acts 2:1-21**

**The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost**

**2**When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2**Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3**They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26954a)] as the Spirit enabled them.

**5**Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6**When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7**Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? **8**Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9**Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26959b)] **10**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11**(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” **12**Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

**13**Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

**Peter Addresses the Crowd**

**14**Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15**These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! **16**No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

**17**“‘In the last days, God says,  
    I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
    your young men will see visions,  
    your old men will dream dreams.  
**18**Even on my servants, both men and women,  
    I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
    and they will prophesy.  
**19**I will show wonders in the heavens above  
    and signs on the earth below,  
    blood and fire and billows of smoke.  
**20**The sun will be turned to darkness  
    and the moon to blood  
    before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.  
**21**And everyone who calls  
    on the name of the Lord will be saved.’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26971c)]

### 2nd Reading:- 1Corinthians 2:3b-13

**Concerning Spiritual Gifts**

**12** no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

**4**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. **5**There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. **6**There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

**7**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. **8**To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, **9**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, **10**to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28645a)] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28645b)] **11**All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

**Unity and Diversity in the Body**

**12**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13**For we were all baptized by[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28648c)] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**Hymn 1183 – Holy Spirit, living breath of God -** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8FKZIz97AU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8FKZIz97AU)

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| **Holy Spirit, living Breath of God (MP1183)**   1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul. Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole. Cause Your word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see; give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me. 2. Holy Spirit, come abide within, may Your joy be seen in all I do. Love enough to cover every sin in each thought and deed and attitude: kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace. Turn my striving into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do. | 1. Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made. Show Your power once again on earth; cause Your church to hunger for Your ways. May the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice, that in unity the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see. |

**Gospel reading: John 20:19-23**

**Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

**19**On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

**21**Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” **22**And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

**SERMON Acts 2:1-21 – By Michael Murray**

**The Gift of the Holy Spirit**

The last few weeks have been quite remarkable. The world has been turned upside down in a way we could not possibly have imagined back in December. We have experienced the anguish of not being able to hug our loved ones, the frustration of cancelled trips and events, the agony of death. ACC is physically closed, and we are finding new ways to worship, whilst remaining together in Christ and in prayer. In school, we have been learning new skills, teaching students in a brave new online world without being physically present. And we are becoming quite good at it! Life really may never be the same again.

But, if you think we have had a few crazy weeks, put yourself in the position of the disciples on the day of Pentecost! Their last few weeks had been quite something! From their triumphant entry to Jerusalem, through Jesus’ arrest, trial and crucifixion, the resurrection and the ascension, they must have been feeling like the whole thing was almost a dream. They had gone from normal existences to disciples of the son of God in a relatively short time. And their (and our) lives really were never going to be the same again.

They were preparing to celebrate a safe festival, the festival of weeks, which they knew well, probably hoping for some calm time with God. The festival was a stable Jewish tradition which focused on the harvest, on giving back a proportion of the blessings which God had bestowed upon His people. The disciples were surely looking for some down time, some time to process what had happened over the last few weeks and to strategise on how to take it forwards.

But we know that God often touches us most strongly when we least expect it. When we feel least ready. When we are looking to lie low. And so, in a violent wind and accompanied by tongues of fire, enters the Holy Spirit, the gift that was given to all believers on the first Pentecost, and is promised for you and your children.

We can divide up the significance of this gift of the Holy Spirit into several areas, but I will focus here on excitement, power and communication:

1. Excitement, because churches are not energised by their structures and institutionalism for their own sake, but by the Holy Spirit breathing through these structures and, indeed, the whole institution. Churches are lively, mission-oriented and energised, precisely because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.
2. Power, but not in the classic sense. Many people lament the fact that the church exercises less power over society than it once did, but I think it is fair to say that it is not the church’s place to hold dictatorial power. It is more appropriate for the church’s power to be used to point people to the cross as a way of life. And it is the Holy Spirit's guidance which can produce a Christ-like character in us. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to make the changes God wants to make in our lives. Philippians 2:13 tells us that God is working in us, giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases him.
3. Communication is possibly the most significant of all, and is represented by believers speaking in tongues and being understood by the God-fearing Jews present from every nation under heaven. Following Peter’s address to the crowd, the message was clear: they were to get out into the community and preach the word, for “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy” (v. 17). Ultimately, through the Holy Spirit, we are given a voice and a message to proclaim so that the whole world will hear and receive the good news of Jesus Christ. It falls on us to get out there, not simply to sit at home, knowing Christ in splendid isolation.

At ACC we seek to embrace these gifts through decentralised power structures and flexible weekly service plans, thus allowing the Holy Spirit to infuse our whole church. And our various committees encourage us all to be involved in communicating the word in unity, excitement, power and communication. The Evangelism and Outreach committee, in particular, provides the perfect platform for those of us looking to increase our communication.

The celebration of Pentecost Sunday reminds us of the reality that we all have, in us, the unifying Spirit that was poured out upon the first-century church. It is a reminder that we are co-heirs with Christ, to suffer with Him that we may also be glorified with Him; that the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good; that we are all baptised by one Spirit into one body; and that the Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead lives inside all believers.

*How do you think the disciples were really feeling on the day of the first Pentecost?*

*Which other gifts are bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit?*

*How can we better communicate the word of God to the world?*

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| **Hymn MP 1025 - All who are thirsty** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw6rYDYozZY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw6rYDYozZY) **(MP1025)**  All who are thirsty, all who are weak, come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away in the waves of his mercy, as deep cries out to deep. *Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.* | All who are thirsty . . . *We sing, ‘Holy Spirit, come. Holy Spirit, come. Holy Spirit, come. Holy Spirit, come.’* |

**COPORATE PRAYER**

*Leader :- Let us join together in prayer – as we pray, let us remember those who are suffering, mourning for their loved ones and those who are at the frontline in helping those affected by the pandemic plague in Tanzania and throughout the world. Pray for your family and the ACC family at large wherever members shall be, God to keep us united in spirit and in union with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The leader should start and end. Those praying out loud should end with the words –* ***“Lord in your mercy”*** *and the rest to respond with the words –* ***“hear our prayers”***

**OFFERTORY**

Hymn MP1072 – **In Christ alone (MP1072)** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWiFYJMGas0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWiFYJMGas0)

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| 1  In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song; this cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.  2  In Christ alone – who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied, for every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live. | 3  There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain, then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And as he stands in victory sin’s curse has lost its grip on me, for I am His and He is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.  4  No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; from life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand; till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand! |

**Offerings can be made to ACC by using mpesa as follows;**

**ACC MPESA number +255 755 992 394 in the name of Nasieku Mollel (ACC Administrator’s last name).**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

**Leader:** *Gracious Father, we thank you for the opportunity to come before you to worship and praise you for your wondrous deed through your indwelling Spirit who lives within us and among us forever. We pray for you enablement to make us light to the world and to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the peoples of the world. We ask this through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!*

**Hymn Holy Spirit Truth Divine -** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-l3crMBYP8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-l3crMBYP8)

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| 1. Holy Spirit, Truth divine, Dawn upon this soul of mine; Word of God and inward light Wake my spirit, clear my sight. 2. Holy Spirit, Love divine, Glow within this heart of mine; Kindle every high desire; Perish self in Thy pure fire. | 1. Holy Spirit, Pow’r divine, Fill and nerve this will of mine; Grant that I may strongly live, Bravely bear, and nobly strive. 2. Holy Spirit, Right divine, King within my conscience reign; Be my Lord, and I shall be Firmly bound, forever free. |