



# Galaxies Evening Service 1 July 2007

Service by Pete Cowley



## Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight where we are asking the question "Pentecost: Where is the Spirit, today"

What does "Spirit" mean to us in this day and age!

## Time for reflection

*You didn't come in a great wind  
or in swirling tongues of fire  
but with a touch as gentle  
as the wings of a butterfly.*

*Yet instantly we knew You,  
our recognition much older than words,  
and we opened like flowers to the sweetness of the moment.*

*Then it was over. The sun continued its path across iron roofs, birds flew in and out of the fig tree and the neighbour's dog, nose down, vacuumed smells from the footpath.*

*But no, not over, for this remains, this light that stitches all things into a shimmering oneness, so that we lose ourselves in sun, houses, tree, birds, dog, and we know as we stand here on holy ground, that nothing will ever be the same again. - Palms for the Road, Joy Cowley*

## Gathering together (Written by Jono, Matthew & Chris, St. Andrew's Rainbow Room)

Leader Haere mai

We come to this place of kindness and welcome  
We come to worship God, however you conceive  
We come to welcome God with our prayers and songs  
We come to think of people in our past and our present  
We come to thank our lucky stars for warm homes,  
for hearty food and clean water  
We come to share the starlight of love.



## Call to worship

Spirit of Joy - come like the wind, swirling around us;  
fill us with enthusiasm and energize us to do your work and your will.

**Thank you God, for the Spirit of Joy!**

Spirit of Truth - come as the flame of Christ's light among us,  
illuminating our hearts, our minds, our lives.

**Thank you God, for the Spirit of Truth**

Spirit of Life - come as the breath of life, pouring energy and power into our dry bones, reminding those who are weary, that we may have life and know God.

**Thank you God, for the Spirit of Life**

Spirit of Hope - come as the four winds, O breath, O restless searcher;  
breathe upon all your people,  
that all creation may be renewed with hope.

**Thank you God, for the Spirit of Hope**

Spirit of Love - come as our Comforter and Consoler, so that any who are broken and wounded are healed, so that all who grieve may be consoled by the power of your love and grace.

**Thank you God, for the Spirit of Love**

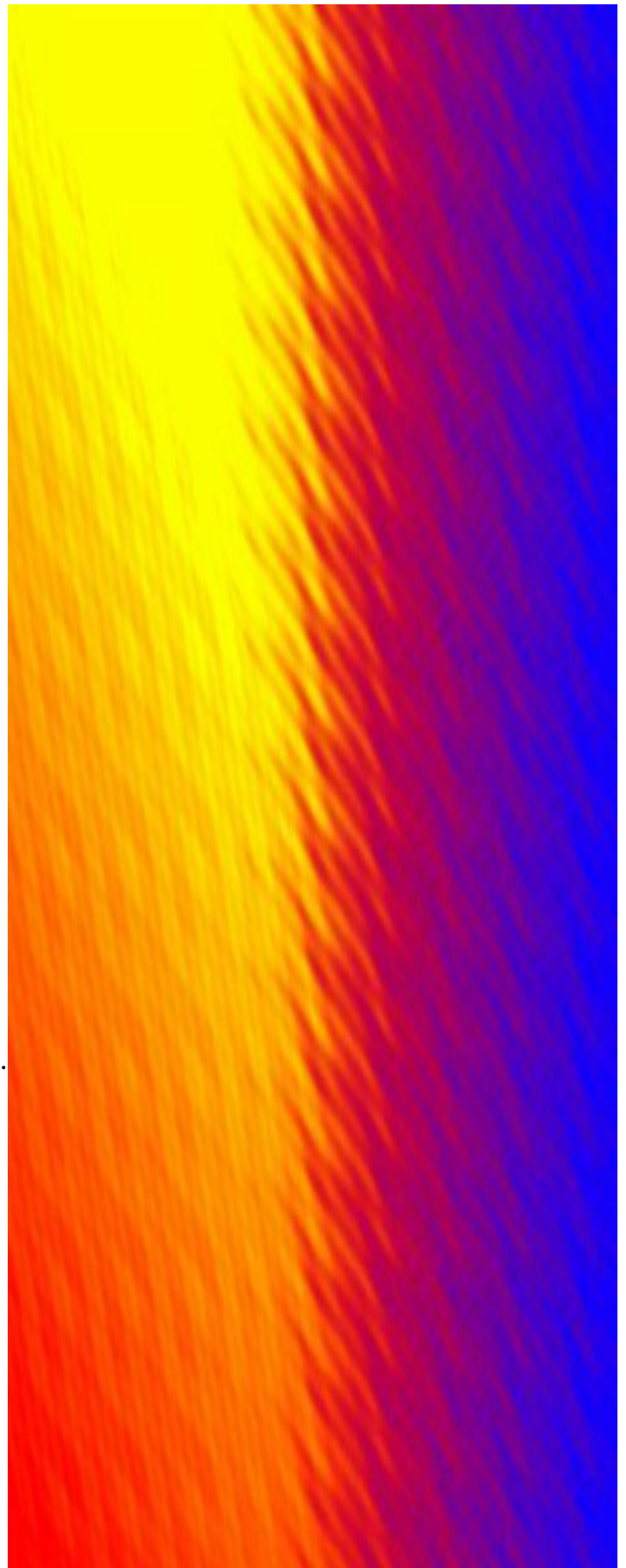
Spirit of Wisdom - come as the light of understanding. that diversity in all its forms may be respected and may be understood as gifts to cherish.

**Thank you God, for the Spirit of Wisdom**

Spirit of Peace - come as the winds of truth, that our hearts may be kindled by the passion for justice and peace.

**Thank you God, for the Spirit of Peace**

As we, somewhat belatedly, celebrate Pentecost, may we, Jesus' followers, for the most part, in this time and place - use these and all the gifts of the Spirit, to work for and serve justice, peace and love to all people. **Amen**





## Affirmation of faith

**We believe**

**in God the creator who gives birth to all that is .. with labour and sighing and looks to the world with joy and love.**

**We believe**

**in Christ the reconciler, who is earthed in our life and enfleshed in its patterns of dying and rising, who gives honour to our reality and grace to our way.**

**We believe**

**in God the free Spirit, who weeps with our grieving in the depths of our darkness and dances among us high on life's mountains - the Spirit who finds us with newness and hope.**

**We believe**

**in the community of faith, which is born of our humanness, is nurtured in sharing and grows whole in our struggling and celebration as one people of God.**

## Notices

If you have any notices to bring to our attention please speak up.

## Contemporary reflections

### *Where is the Spirit of God Writing It Now?*

by Fred Matthew Schobert

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed any possessions as their own, but everyone shared all they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time, those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Acts 4:31b-35 (based on NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling



their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47) Acts 4:32-35...

There must be something important in this passage.  
There must be something special in this text.  
It seems so familiar;  
And it seems so unfamiliar.  
It is familiar,  
for Luke wrote it previously in Acts 2:42-47.  
It is unfamiliar,  
for I am haunted by the question,

**“Where is the Spirit of God writing it now?”**

Discussion - what is your experiences of Spirit?  
Where have you found Spirit in your world.  
Thoughts, reflections, Discussion.

### The commissioning

We celebrate and rejoice in the Spirit among us!

**We are filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit**

The Spirit renews, energizes, and empowers all creation and all God's children

**We are filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit**

Send us forth with the power of the Holy Spirit Dwelling in us.

**We are filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit**

We are the Church! We follow where the Spirit leads, daring to be risk-takers wherever we go!

**We are filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit**

### Departure

As we depart from this place  
of light,

love,

and warm hearts

may we be a light to others

may we treat all we meet with loving-kindness

may we warm others hearts with our care and commitment

to compassion, truth and justice

in all our dealings.



*The Descent of the Holy Spirit in a 15th century illuminated manuscript. Musée Condé, Chantilly (from Wikipedia)*