



## WAITAKI PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

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**June 5th 2022 - Pentecost Sunday**

**Led by The Worship Resource Team**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Isaiah 42 verses 1, 5&6, 10 GNB)*

The Lord says, 'Here is my servant, whom I strengthen –

**THE ONE I HAVE CHOSEN, WITH WHOM I AM PLEASED.**

I have filled him with my spirit,

**AND HE WILL BRING JUSTICE TO EVERY NATION.'**

God created the heavens

**AND STRETCHED THEM OUT;**

he fashioned the earth and all that lives there;

**HE GAVE LIFE AND BREATH TO ALL ITS PEOPLE.**

And now the Lord God says to his servant,

**"I, THE LORD, HAVE CALLED YOU AND GIVEN YOU POWER TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE ON EARTH.**

Through you I will make a covenant with all peoples;

**THROUGH YOU I WILL BRING LIGHT TO THE NATIONS."**

Sing a new song to the Lord;

**SING HIS PRAISE, ALL THE WORLD!**

### **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT'S POWER** *(WOV 328 Tune:Woodlands)*

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord

the infant church confessed its risen Lord:

O Holy Spirit, in the church today

no less your power of fellowship display.

Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,

that unity may be our great desire:

give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,

and readiness in each to work for all.

Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace

in your strong care people of every race:

like wind and fire, with life among us move

til we are known as Christ's, and Christian's prove.

### **OPENING PRAYERS:** Colin Harvey

"Someone is shouting in the desert,

'Prepare a road for the Lord;

make a straight path for him to travel!"

"This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

Gracious Father God!

I am staggered by Your grace and that you, Lord Jesus should do all this for ME, for each one of us.

Thank you, that each of us has been able to respond to the call to worship and fellowship here this morning.

People came to John the Baptist from all over Jerusalem, we come from all over Oamaru.

The roads to get here are straight and smooth

Our clothes are made of sheep's hair; we wear a plastic belt around our waist, and our food is oysters and ice cream.

Yet, we cry in the wilderness. The life we walk is rugged and rough. We find no straight highways. Only deep valleys and high mountains.

Lord Jesus, you are the light for each of us and for all people, grasp us by the hand. And lead us. Open our eyes when we are blind, to see the salvation you have blessed us with.

We are sorry when we get carried away with the busyness of each day not stopping to dwell on your love.

We are sorry when we get caught up in conflict and frustration, when we harbour resentment, instead of giving out forgiveness.

We are sorry when we forget the real treasure of life, love.

Only when we slow down from the busyness of life, we hear you in the birds singing and sense your presence in the gentle wind.

We get a glimpse of your goodness in the miracle of new life.

The morning sunrise reminds us of your mercies that begin fresh every morning.

As we go about our day, we admire how great you are by pausing to enjoy what you created.

It's so easy to get overwhelmed when we are struck by rough roads.

But we don't have to fear anything as your children. All power belongs to you!

Thank you Lord for your mighty power at work in our lives right now.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for providing the power within us to do the things you have called us to do.

Help us to never forget where our source of power and salvation comes from.

In your name, Lord Jesus, we pray, Amen.

## **WELCOME, NOTICES & CELEBRATIONS**

### **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**FOCUS:** *Have you filled a bucket today? (Kids Book by Carol McCloud)*

*THE BUCKET - Joy Cowley ('Come and See' pg42)*

*I think it takes a lot of years*

*and an understanding of how life works,*

*to be truly wise, truly compassionate;*

*and somewhere along the way we learn*

*that life is like an empty bucket.*

*What we put into it  
we take out with interest.  
Maybe that's what Jesus meant  
when he said to his disciples,  
"Give and it shall be given to you"?*

*What do we put in our buckets?  
It's a complex question  
that will have a complex answer,  
but it is the desire of our hearts  
to offer just the one thing  
that God gives us in abundance –  
LOVE.*

### **BLESSED ASSURANCE** (MHB 422)

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine:  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood...  
*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long x2*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love...

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love...

### **READING (GNB):** Bruce Plant

#### Matthew 3:1&2, 5&6 The Preaching of John the Baptist

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judaea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!"

People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judaea, and from all the country near the River Jordan. They confessed their sins, and he baptised them in the Jordan.

"I baptise you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

#### Matthew Chapter 3:11-17 The Baptism of Jesus

At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptised by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!"

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

### **MESSAGE – PART 1:** Bethne Dodd 'Baptism of Jesus'

Thanks to Gospel Writer Matthew, we find ourselves in a surprising setting, given this is Pentecost. Not as you would imagine among Jerusalem's crowds but, for now at least, stepping back in time some three years earlier to be among those drawn by the preaching of John, known as the Baptist. Drawn to the territory of the River Jordan by this man, whom we are told, was filled with the Holy Spirit since birth (*Luke 1:15*). Here marks the end of Jesus' 30 years of private life. Here the Spirit descends to equip him for his very public future life and ministry. Here God the Father's words of acceptance and approval are voiced.

John, reluctant to baptise Jesus, does so only to accomplish God's purpose while Jesus submits and receives baptism, by John, to do the same. Jesus, the only one who has no confession to make, is drenched in the very same waters where people have confessed their sins. Symbolically immersed, he identifies himself with all people, then rising from beneath the waters – a metaphor for his own death - both he and John witness God and the Spirit's presence, visible, audible, each echoing the Hebrew Scriptures.

Take the Father's own personal words (*a melding of Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1*) "*This is my own dear Son with whom I am pleased.*" Similar words will be spoken later at Jesus' Transfiguration "*This is my own dear Son whom I have chosen and with whom I am pleased – listen to him.*" (*Mark/Luke 9/Matthew 17*) And while all Gospel writers describe the Spirit being like a dove, reminiscent of God's presence hovering over the waters of creation, Luke alone implies the heavens open and the Spirit alights in response to Jesus praying.

What can we learn? The same Spirit – there at the Genesis of creation and present at baptism will now remain Jesus' constant companion. According to Luke... There throughout his immediate temptation "*Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led, by the Spirit, into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days.*" (*Luke 4:1&2*) There at the outset of his public ministry "*Jesus returned to Galilee and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. He taught in the synagogues and was praised by everyone*" (*Luke 4:14*) – well, the 'praised by everyone' thing was short-lived!

There as Jesus now returns to where he was brought up in Nazareth. Now attends, as usual, on the Sabbath, the local synagogue – the place of worship where a leader would stand to pray and read the scrolls of Scripture but sit to teach. Where anyone might be invited to take part in the service of prayers, readings and sermon...as we're invited to do later today.

There as Jesus himself stands to read the Scriptures and is handed the book of the Prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he reads the first two verses of Chapter 61... "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and anno unce that the time has come when the*

*Lord will save his people.*” Rolling up the scroll and handing it back to the attendant, Jesus sits, and as the people expectantly wait to hear his teaching, he informs them, *“This passage of Scripture has come true today as you heard it being read.”*

These few instances demonstrate the diverse nature of God’s Holy Spirit already at work within Jesus’ life. As a helper, comforting and sustaining him through difficulty. As a teacher, imparting knowledge and giving guidance. As an interpreter, bringing inspiration and discernment.

It was Jesus who would explain to his first disciples, during their final meal together, *“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you for ever. He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him or know him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.”* (John 14:16)

This same Spirit’s presence, soon to be poured out upon all believers, is foretold by John the Baptist himself. He who contrasts the elements of water, his own form of baptism, with Messiah’s greater baptism by the Holy Spirit and fire - highlighting both the purifying and consuming aspect of the Spirit’s work. This emphasis is perhaps less surprising when we realise John may well have shared a common belief, that the last judgement would be enacted by people immersing themselves in and crossing a river of fire. No doubt inspired by the same God who called Israel out of Egypt across the Jordan he now creates a new people by symbolically passing them through the waters of baptism in the same river. Uniquely instituted by John, this simple act of immersion – of having one’s old life washed away and rising as if new-born – unlike circumcision made salvation available to everyone. This was enough to gain forgiveness in the face of God’s coming judgement and kingdom, recognised by some as now being at hand through the arrival of Messiah. The very one whom John the Baptist identified as Jesus. The man he called the Son of God, and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

### **FREELY FREELY** (*Scripture in Song Bk1/41 – Youtube Video Emmaus Music*)

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name  
I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name  
And in Jesus’ name I come to you to share his love as he told me to...

*He said, ‘Freely, freely, you have received, Freely, freely, give.  
Go in my name and because you believe others will know that I live.’*

All power is given in Jesus’ name on earth and heaven in Jesus’ name  
And in Jesus’ name I come to you to share his power as he told me told... *He said*

God give us life in Jesus’ name, on earth and heaven in Jesus’ name  
And in Jesus’ name I come to you  
To share his peace as he told me to... *He said*

### **READING (GNB):** Catherine Harvey

#### John 20:19-23 Jesus appears to his disciples

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

#### Acts 2:1-4 The coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

### **MESSAGE - PART 2:** Bethne Dodd 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit'

From John's Gospel.

In the wake of Jesus' cruel suffering and death. In the midst of the disciples' disillusionment, uncertainty, grief and fear – they gather together privately behind closed doors. Here the Risen Lord comes among them – restoring faith, bringing joy, speaking peace. Commissioning them, and imparting to them, the reception of the Holy Spirit in much the same way as the Creator first breathed God's life-giving breath into Adam. Emphasis here rests upon the intimate, gentle means by which the Spirit is given and received - is breathed in.

From Luke's Book of Acts.

In the wake of Jesus' ascension, his return to the Father in heaven, and the disciples joyous outpouring of thanksgiving in the Temple. In the midst of their now prayerful, expectant waiting in obedience to the Risen Lord's own request, they gather together publicly in Jerusalem. Here the Holy Spirit comes upon them, moves among them. Audibly, as a mighty rushing wind. Visibly, as tongues of fire, filling and empowering them for service by setting them ablaze for God. Causing an outpouring of praise, this time in other languages, as the Spirit enables them to speak. Emphasis here is upon the perceptible, dynamic means by which the Spirit is received and expressed - is breathed out.

What can we learn?

First. Each experience and demonstration of the Spirit's presence is no less valid than the next.

This becomes increasingly evident as we continue reading The Acts of the Apostles. Take *Chapter 10 (Acts 10:44)* - Peter's still speaking God's message when the Spirit falls upon his Gentile hearers, much to the amazement of Peter's own Jewish travelling companions. And after these new believers respond, by themselves praising God's greatness in other languages, they're baptised in Jesus' name.

In the very next chapter - explaining to hearers in Jerusalem Peter then reiterates, "*I remembered what the Lord himself had said (Acts 1:5) 'John baptised you with water but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' It is clear God gave these gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,*" and adds, "*who was I, then, to stop God!*" (Acts 11:17)

And later, it's Paul who finds himself in Ephesus, encountering other disciples who've never even heard of the Holy Spirit and who've only received John's baptism.

So Paul explains to them – *“The baptism of John was for those who turned from their sins. For John told the people of Israel to believe in the one who was coming after him – that is, in Jesus.”* Accepting and believing Paul’s statement, in faith they are now baptised in Jesus’ name. Paul then places his hands on them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and they too begin speaking in other tongues, proclaiming God’s message with joy. (Acts 19:1-6)

These instances reveal the Holy Spirit comes to people in a variety of different ways. So who are we to limit God’s activity by prescribing the where, the when or the how. Who are we, then, to try and stop God – good luck with that!

Second. There is an ongoing rhythm to life – a breathing in and breathing out - each is necessary to live.

So it is with the Spirit. In John’s Gospel Jesus explains to Nicodemus and us alike, this word signifying wind, breath and power, blows wherever it wishes (John 3:8) He also reminds us that to see the Kingdom of God one must be born again, born of water and the Spirit. (John 3:3,5,6)

Whenever we welcome Jesus into our lives we also receive, or breathe in, the Holy Spirit. We are born again. But little good comes of holding one’s breath. To continue sustaining ourselves, and to be of any use to others, this breath of life must be let out. As we sang, *‘Freely, freely, you have received, Freely, freely, give.’*

Third. *‘Baptism in the Holy Spirit’* is a life-changing event.

This should come as no surprise when we learn the word baptise means to *‘completely suffuse’* to drench, saturate or flood our entire being – leaving us, in classical Greek, with the image of a totally submerged, water-logged ship.

Again - when we accept Jesus into our lives, God’s love is poured out into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit who is God’s gift to us, fact (Romans 5:5) But a fresh outpouring of this same Spirit is still needed to renew and empower us before overflowing to refresh the world and those around us. As Jesus - quoting the prophets Ezekiel and Zechariah - said about the Spirit, *“Whoever believes in me, streams of life-giving water will pour out from his heart.”* (John 7:38)

Whatever we might think, whatever we may or may not have personally experienced, at the end of the day what should come from any touch of God upon someone’s life is good. Change for the better, a new sense of acceptance, purpose, outlook, signs of transformation. For privately, publicly, the Holy Spirit brings far more than a passing experience – which we should never seek in and of itself – as seeds are sown and gifts imparted which, given time, prayer and nurturing, will begin to grow and are to be put to good use. The results of this internal change will eventually be encountered by others, outworked through our physical bodies, our speech and actions. This is the way we continue to come into contact with our environment and those around us. For many, it is unlikely they will be helped or challenged until they come to see, hear and experience, in person, Jesus’ life flowing from us.

In drawing our Message to a close I share Paul’s words – no less relevant as we mark Pentecost in this day and age, then they were to his first hearers some two thousand years ago. Pointing out the obvious, he states, *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to*

*perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all" and ends, by repeating, "It is one and the same Spirit who does all this."  
(1Corinthians 12:4-7,11)*

May we so welcome God's Holy Spirit that streams of life-giving water overflow from us into the lives of others, in such a way, that they too might come to praise our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **HOLY SPIRIT YOU ARE WELCOME HERE** *(Francesca Battestilli)*

There's nothing worth more that could ever come close  
No thing can compare You're our living hope. Your presence, Lord.

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves  
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone. Your presence, Lord.

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord. Your presence, Lord.

Let us become more aware of Your presence  
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness

### **READING (GNB):** Bethne Dodd

#### John 1:29-34 John the Baptist's Testimony

The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.' I did not know who he would be, but I came baptising with water in order to make him known to the people of Israel.

And John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stay on him. I still did not know that he was the one, but God, who sent me to baptise with water, had said to me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and stay on a man; he is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen it," said John, "and I tell you that he is the Son of God."

### **MESSAGE PART 3: Open Time...**

*Following a few words of explanation and space of silence, an invitation will be given for anyone to share in a positive way... to give a short testimony, a Bible verse, prayer, song, good news of answered prayer, encouragement, thanks or praise for something The Spirit has shown revealed...*

### **OFFERING PRAYER:** Stef Jescheke

Loving God who created us:

- we bring you our gifts with gratitude for all your blessings that you allow us to experience.
- we bring them with open eyes to see you in people.
- we bring them with open ears to hear the cries of those in need of help.
- we bring them with open hands to become Your instruments.



- we bring them with open hearts to experience and share Your extraordinary love.
- we bring them with trust and confidence in Your infinite love for us.

Let us give more than money.

Let us do Your work in deed and word.

Let us give true love.

Let us be generous with it all.

Let us do all this in Your name.

We pray these words in the name of our loving God who has blessed us so wonderfully and abundantly. Amen.

### **PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES & OTHERS:** Anthea Brown

Almighty God, we thank you that we can bring our prayers and petitions before you. We think of those who suffer oppression from war, religious freedom and personal circumstances. In a moment of silent prayer, let us reflect on those who are cast down from a spirit of heaviness and despair. May our prayers bring some comfort.

**Please hear our prayers** *(Pause)*

We remember those who are fearful. We know that perfect love casts out fear, so we pray that God's love will bring hope to those who suffer. Let us silently pray for those we know, and others, for God's peace.

**Please hear our prayers** *(Pause)*

Let us bring to God people who are lonely and feel abandoned and lost. People who desperately need to know that God loves them. In our silent prayers, let us remember those who are lonely.

**Please hear our prayers** *(Pause)*

We also spend time in silent prayer as we reflect on our own lives and others. Those who need God's healing and loving touch at this time. Help us to remember that the Holy Spirit is there to help us to pray and to encourage us.

**Please hear our prayers** *(Pause)*

Thank you God for loving and us and hearing our prayers.

We conclude with saying The Lord's Prayer together.

**Our Father in Heaven holy be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

### **SHINE JESUS SHINE** *(Graham Kendrick)*

Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us - Shine on me x2

*Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness - Shine on me x2

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story - Shine on me x2

In closing – Paul's words from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-23 remind us...

*"Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. Do not restrain the Holy Spirit, do not despise inspired messages. Put all things to the test: keep what is good and avoid every kind of evil. May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being – spirit, soul and body – free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

### **THE GRACE:**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.**