

A WHITSUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

A service prepared by the Revd Clifford M. Reed



*The Memorial Church (Unitarian)
Emmanuel Road, Cambridge*

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Readings: *Acts 2: 1-4 & 10: 34-38*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

[Later] Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

I Corinthians 12: 12-13 & 12: 27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. [.

. .] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Service Leader: Living Spirit, who moved among the disciples at Pentecost, filling them with power to preach and witness and making of their separateness one body, be in us and amongst us now. May we, in our diversity, know a deeper unity and become ourselves members of the body that is humanity renewed; so may we reach out to do good and heal the oppressed, as Jesus did. Amen.

Let us now join together in the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Service Leader: On the night of his betrayal, as so many times before, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He broke bread with them, making of it a symbol of his own body, soon to be broken. He drank wine with them, making of it a symbol of his own blood, soon to be shed. Remembering this, his disciples saw in bread a symbol of themselves as his risen body on earth, in wine a symbol of his continuing life in which they shared. In breaking the one and pouring the

other, they remembered his witness unto death and the triumph of his spirit. As do we.

¶ The bread is broken & the wine poured into the common cup.

Service Leader: In sharing this broken bread we become one body, remembering him who went about doing good and healing the oppressed. As we eat of it may we feel our oneness, remembering all who have striven to restore our broken humanity. May we share the Spirit with which Jesus was anointed.

¶ The bread is shared in silence.

Service Leader: In sharing this wine we affirm that we are of one blood with all who share the human form. As we drink of the one cup may we drink of the one Spirit, remembering all whose love and wisdom have blessed the world. May we share the Spirit that God pours out on all his sons and daughters.

¶ The wine is shared in silence.

Service Leader: And now, in silence, we bring ourselves before God.

¶ Silence.

Service Leader: May the Spirit that was in Jesus, The Spirit that roared and blazed into his disciples, the Spirit that makes one body of all who love and serve their neighbours and God, be with us and amongst us now and always. Amen.