

The Bride Valley Service for Sunday 5th June 2022
Pentecost Sunday/Thanksgiving for the Queens Platinum Jubilee

We gather together to worship God and in thanksgiving for the seventy years of faithful service of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth. We give thanks for her example of faithfulness to God and to her people, and pray God's blessing on her that she may continue to fulfil the promises she has made with generosity and joy.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: Let your ways be known upon earth,

All: **your saving power among the nations.**

Hymn: Praise my soul the King of Heaven (one of the Queen's favourite hymns)

Praise my soul the King of heaven
To His feet your tribute bring
Ransomed healed restored forgiven
Who like me His praise should sing
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise the everlasting King

2. Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress
Praise Him still the same for ever
Slow to chide and swift to bless
Alleluia, alleluia,
Glorious in His faithfulness

3. Father-like He tends and spares us
Well our human frame He knows
In His hands He gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes
Alleluia, alleluia
Widely as His mercy flows

4. Angels help us to adore Him
Ye behold Him face to face
Sun and moon bow down before Him
Dwellers all in time and space
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise with us the God of grace

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The Queen in her own words

If we all go forward together with an unwavering faith, a high courage, and a quiet heart, we shall be able to make of this ancient commonwealth, which we all love so dearly, an even grander thing - more free, more prosperous, more happy and a more powerful influence for good in the world - than it has been in the greatest days of our forefathers. To accomplish that we must give nothing less than the whole of ourselves. There is a motto which has been borne by many of my ancestors - a noble motto, "I serve". Those words were an inspiration to many bygone heirs to the Throne when they made their knightly dedication as they came to manhood. I cannot do quite as they did.

But through the inventions of science I can do what was not possible for any of them. I can make my solemn act of dedication with a whole Empire listening. I should like to make that dedication now. It is very simple.

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

(An extract from Princess Elizabeth's 21st birthday radio broadcast, 21 April 1947, from Cape Town, as the Princess dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth.)

Prayer: Gracious God, we give you thanks for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen, and for the example of loving and faithful service which she has shown among us. Help us to follow her example of dedication and to commit our lives to you and to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Acts 2: 1-8 The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Sermon: This weekend, our whole country has been given a long Bank Holiday Weekend to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and for those of us who are Christians, it coincides birthday of the church, otherwise known as Pentecost.

On the very first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came rushing through the early church and inflamed the hearts of Jesus' believers.

The Holy Spirit reminds us who we are when we are fearful, when we are suffering and when we think we are not good enough.

The Holy Spirit reminds us that we are made in the image of God, and we are beloved children of God, children of our Heavenly King and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. Our Queen, Elizabeth II is the daughter of an earthly king, but she also knows that she is the daughter of our heavenly king.

When we sing the National Anthem, we ask that the Queen be endowed with the gifts that are also available to us. The gifts that God the King pours out on all of us by His Holy Spirit. The traits that we admire in our Queen are the same traits that we should be showing in our service to God. Traits like faithfulness, courage and persistence.

The Queen has faithfully served our country and our Heavenly King for 70 years and that is a reason to celebrate and pray that she will continue to be a wonderful role model for us to follow and show us how we should serve our Heavenly King and Father.

As children of our Heavenly King, we too are real princes and princesses. As princes and princesses, we have royal duties to perform, and God calls each of us to our own particular duty or job that he has created each one of us to do, and he gives us the gifts that we need in order to do our job well.

But the most important job that we are all called to do is to love each other, to love everyone, even if we don't really like someone, we are to love them by helping them and caring for them and sharing the love of Christ with them.

Before God sent His Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, the church was lifeless, the church was not witnessing and telling people about Jesus, but after the Holy Spirit breathed life into the church, the people of the church began telling everyone they saw about Jesus.

It didn't even matter if they spoke the same language, everyone they told about Jesus understood and thought they were being spoken to in their own language.

The church became alive, and the believers were able to do the things that God had called them to do.

Like the early church, we too need to be filled with life to be able to be who we were created to be and do the things that God has called us to do, therefore, we need to pray daily to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember that we are beloved children of God our heavenly father and king, and go out each day to do our royal duty as faithfully, courageously and persistently as our Glorious Queen Elizabeth carries out her royal duties.

Amen.

The Queen in her own words

When people face a challenge they sometimes talk about taking a deep breath to find courage or strength. In fact, the word 'inspire' literally means 'to breathe in'. But even with the inspiration of others, it's understandable that we sometimes think the world's problems are so big that we can do little to help. On our own, we cannot end wars or wipe out injustice, but the cumulative impact of thousands of small acts of goodness can be bigger than we imagine.

At Christmas, our attention is drawn to the birth of a baby some two thousand years ago. It was the humblest of beginnings, and his parents, Joseph and Mary, did not think they were important.

Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe.

The message of Christmas reminds us that inspiration is a gift to be given as well as received, and that love begins small but always grows.

(An extract from the Queen's Christmas Message, 2016)

Act of commitment

Leader: As we give thanks for Her Majesty's service to us all, let us dedicate our own lives once again to the love and service of God and neighbour.

All: **Lord of our lives and Father of all, grant that our thanksgiving for our Queen may prove itself in service to our country and one another, for your name's sake. Amen**

Hymn: Lord for the Years

Lord for the years your love has kept and guided
Urged and inspired us cheered us on our way
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided
Lord of the years we bring our thanks today

2. Lord for that word
the word of life which fires us
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us
Lord of the word receive Your people's praise

3. Lord for our land in this our generation
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care
For young and old,
for commonwealth and nation
Lord of our land be pleased to hear our prayer

4. Lord for our world
when we disown and doubt you
Loveless in strength and comfortless in pain
Hungry and helpless lost indeed without you
Lord of the world we pray that Christ may reign

5. Lord for ourselves in living power remake us
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne
Past put behind us for the future take us
Lord of our lives to live for Christ alone

*Michael Alfred Baughen | Timothy Dudley-Smith
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The Queen in her own words

6th February, marks the 70th anniversary of my Accession in 1952. It is a day that, even after 70 years, I still remember as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign. As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.

As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for. These last seven decades have seen

extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

(An extract from The Queen's Accession Day message, 5 February 2022)

Prayers

O God, you provide for your people by your power, and rule over them in love: receive the gratitude which we offer this day for your servant Elizabeth our Queen. Send your blessing upon her work, that under her we may be wisely governed, and all people may serve you in faith, hope, and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

O God, bless all members of the Commonwealth of nations, bound together under one Queen. Help us always to remember our great responsibilities, and keep in the forefront of our minds the example of Jesus our King: the ultimate example of integrity, justice, faith, courage, duty, self-sacrifice, and generosity that we may see our world transformed into your Kingdom, for your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

King of the Universe, creator of this beautiful earth. As we thank God for our Queen's care for our natural world, we consider our part in that care. Make us aware of our impact on your creation and equip us to be careful and loving stewards of it, for the sake of all your creatures and for your glory.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

King of kings and Lord of lords, fill the hearts of all in authority with the love of your laws, and with all that is righteous and life-giving, that, together with them, we may be wise and worthy stewards of your gifts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen

Long live our noble Queen

God save the Queen

Send her victorious

Happy and glorious

Long to reign over us

God save the Queen

Henry Carey | William E. Hickson © Words: Public Domain

Blessing

Go now into the world, do what God wills, follow where Christ calls, pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and may the blessing of our Triune God— Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, rest on you and remain with you now and always,

Amen