

Wind and fire: Psalm 104.1-5



Psalm 104.1-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
You are clothed with majesty and honour, wrapped in light as in a garment.
You spread out the heavens like a curtain, and lay the beams of your dwelling-
place in the waters above.
You make the clouds your chariot, and ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers, and flames of fire your servants.

As we have come to the end of Thy Kingdom Come, it is fitting to return to the beginning of all things: the creation of the universe by God out of nothing. The psalm invites us to join together in worship of God our creator and provider, a hymn accompanying the story told in Genesis 1. On the day when we celebrate God's outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church, it is fitting to remember that the Spirit has been *hovering over the waters* since before the beginning of time, making and empowering the people of God.

Both Pentecost and the creation story remind us that it is the power of God which changes things and people, and it is the Spirit of God who turns those for whom we pray from darkness to light. We pray and God acts. How and when God acts is often mysterious to us, but it is not surprising that we cannot quite fathom the ways of an unimaginably great God who is clothed with splendour and majesty.

If we have learnt anything whilst journeying through these days together, it is that

- we recognise importance of prayer in our lives;
- God's will is to act in response, and to act gladly;
- so we trust God, even though we often don't understand.

Our hope is that this season of prayer will not only bring into the Kingdom of God those for whom you have prayed, but that it will have brought you yourself closer to God. For this you were created: in this may you live all the days of your life on earth. Glory be to God!

Father, thank you for your love:

*draw my family and friends into that love.
Jesus, thank you for your gift of yourself:
help us all to accept and appreciate that gift.
Holy Spirit, give us new life, and bring us home.*

Pentecost Sunday marks the coming of the Holy Spirit in wind and flame, and the birthday of the church. A good day for looking back, and looking forward. Today's TFTD marks the end of this short series of prayers and meditations from *Thy Kingdom Come* — we hope you have enjoyed sharing in this.

It's also the point where we take a break from TFTD over the summer, to reflect on where God has brought us since the beginning of the pandemic, to take a breather, and to plan for the next step. Many thanks to all of you have written in with comments and suggestions (keep them coming!) — and of course to all our wonderful team of contributors! Our special thanks and blessings to Anna who will be leaving us after her ordination on July 4th and heading off to pastures new in Sutton, Wincle and Wildboardclough. (Join us for Anna's last service at St Philip & St James on June 6th.)

And of course a pause in TFTD doesn't mean we stop praying! All the TFTDs over the past year are archived on the SSPJ website. And there are many other great resources for daily prayer: try the Daily Prayer app from the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org> (with a nice picture of Bishop Libby!) — or daily notes from the Bible Reading Fellowship at <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/our-notes>

*How good is the God we adore, our faithful unchangeable friend:
His love is as great as his power, and knows neither measure nor end.
Tis Jesus, the first and the last: his presence will guide us safe home:
We'll thank him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come.
God bless, Loveday*