

# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

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23/05/2021 -- Pentecost

## Pentecost - Dream Big



Next week is our zoom

“Church & Chat”

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children’s activity), prayer, “thought for the week” and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

Join us next week at 10 am:

Topic: Church and Chat

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75124173520?pwd=QVB4WUx6QXg3Y3hQc1NQYkxINmozZz09>

Meeting ID: 751 2417 3520

Passcode: Bethel2021

All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)

the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you. John 14:17

**Good morning and welcome to this week's Pentecost thoughts, shared with Jersey  
Salvation Army**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> hymn for today is: "We Seek Your Kingdom"

[We Seek Your Kingdom \(Official Video\) | Noel Robinson, Lou Fellingham, Andy Flannagan, Donna Akodu - YouTube](#)

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere  
We long for heaven's demonstration here  
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see  
Transform, revive, and heal society

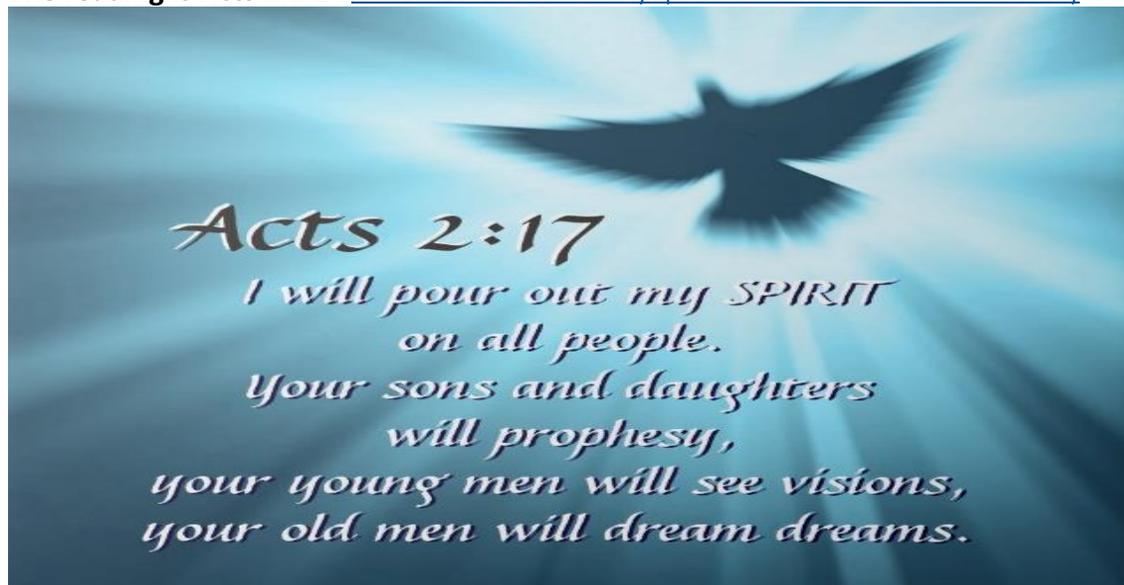
Before all things, in him were all things made  
Inspiring culture, media, and trade  
May all our work serve your economy  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere  
With us be present in our public square  
Fill all who lead with your integrity  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged  
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page  
Make us again what we were made to be  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be  
Selfless in service, loving constantly  
In everything may your authority  
Transform, revive, and heal society

**The reading is Acts 2:1-24** [Acts 2:1-24 NIVUK - The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost - Bible Gateway](#)



## **Dream Big**

This week is Pentecost, and I nearly missed it. So today our thoughts come from the Salvation Army in Jersey.

Pentecost is often thought of as the birthday of the church. It is the moment that changed so much for that first group of Jesus-followers.

There is one part of Today's reading that we are going to focus on - the part where it says:

*In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.*

Those words are so clear. God will pour His Spirit on **ALL** people. The Spirit that came and amazed people all those years ago - that Spirit is for everyone.

We are called to be people who dream big. We are not supposed to be happy with the status quo. Young and old, all of us are given imagination, and it is in-built within each of us to dream, to hope and imagine and hold out for better.

Pentecost is a reminder of a powerful God wanting to do amazing things in the world that He has made. In other places in the Bible, such as the Lord's prayer, we see the phrase "God's Kingdom come on earth as in heaven."

I have no doubt at all that God is working in our world and in our island right now. I believe that because I see glimpses of God working in our community. Moments when we have the privilege of meeting people and are able to show them compassion when they need it. Occasions when God's timing makes it possible for us to help in a difficult situation.

When our dreams line up with God's hopes and plans for the world, then great things happen.

So what is the first step? How can we dream dreams that connect with God's plans?

I can suggest 2 things:

### **First of all - spend time with God.**

When we spend time talking to God and reading about how Jesus lived in the Bible, we begin to get to know Him. If you have spent a lifetime praying or want to try it for the first time, prayer is your direct connection with God, every day, all the time.

Pray for God to pour His Spirit on you - to experience for yourself His love for you, and for the world around you.

### **Secondly, dream big!**

Imagine how the world would look if God's values of compassion, love, grace and justice became more and more important in our community and our world.

Take time to imagine what Sheppey would look like if everyone lived with those values?

One of our songs this week - We Seek Your Kingdom - talks about seeking God's Kingdom throughout every sphere of society, inspiring culture, media and trade. Each verse ends with the line "transform, revive and heal society."

That is the kind of dreaming that will connect us with God's plans!



Our next hymn is "Send The Fire Today" [SALVATION ARMY- SEND THE FIRE TODAY - YouTube](#)

1. Thou Christ of burning, cleansing flame,  
Send the fire!  
Thy blood-bought gift today we claim,  
Send the fire today!  
Look down and see this waiting host,  
Give us the promised Holy Ghost;  
We need another Pentecost,  
Send the fire today! Send the fire today!
2. God of Elijah, hear our cry:  
Send the fire!  
To make us fit to live or die,  
Send the fire today!  
To burn up every trace of sin,  
To bring the light and glory in,  
The revolution now begin,  
Send the fire today! Send the fire today!
3. To make our weak hearts strong and brave,  
Send the fire!  
To live a dying world to save,  
Send the fire today!  
Oh, see us on Thy altar lay  
Our lives, our all, this very day;  
To crown the off'ring now we pray,  
Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

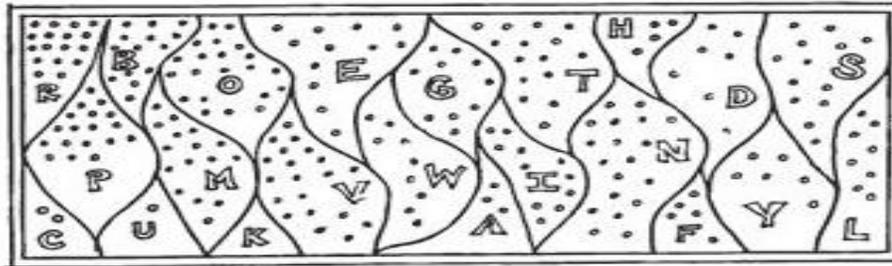
**Today's Pray:**

*Lord, Help us to dream big, in a way that connects to your great plan. Send your fire into each one of us so we can build your kingdom here on earth.*

**Amen.**

**What Happened at Pentecost?**

Count the number of dots in each space. Then use the letters to decode the message below about what happened at Pentecost. Check your work with Acts 2:4.



3 8 8    21 5    15 4 12 18    9 12 17 12    5 11 8 8 12 7  
9 11 15 4    15 4 12    4 21 8 8    13 18 11 17 11 15    3 19 7  
14 12 10 3 19    15 21    13 18 12 3 0    11 19    21 15 4 12 17  
15 21 19 10 1 12 13    3 13    15 4 12    13 18 11 17 11 15  
12 19 3 14 8 12 7    15 4 12 16

MAY GODS BLESSING SURROUND YOU  
EACH DAY AS YOU TRUST HIM AND WALK IN  
HIS WAY;  
MAY HIS PRESENCE WITHIN  
GUARD AND KEEP YOU FROM SIN.  
GO IN PEACE, GO IN JOY, GO IN LOVE!