

## Bangor & Holyhead Methodist Circuit

### Sunday Worship Sheet, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Our worship for this week is written by Keith Alexander, Retired Visiting Preacher, Ordained Elder of the URC and member of Amlwch Methodist Church

You may wish to have your Bible to hand. Please note that the hymns are now at the back of the sheet for ease of printing. CCLI licence 556292

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#### Call to worship

Through our hymns and songs, our prayer and meditation, the joining of our lives in fellowship we worship you, Father Son and Holy Spirit. Enfold us in your love and empower our worship that your name might be glorified in this place and in our lives.

**Hymn 395** Spirit of the living God

#### Prayers of Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving:

**Adoration** God of power and glory, we praise your holy name. Your Pentecostal fire spread not from priest or king but from ordinary lives when through your disciples you set this world aflame. So fill this place, we pray, that your spiritual power might be seen through these ordinary lives. Rekindle the fire in our hearts that was lit when we first believed, that we might become a blessing to many. God of power and glory, we praise your holy name.

**Confession** If our flame grows dim and faith goes cold, revive us, Lord, we pray. Breathe upon the spark that still remains; Stir again the embers of our first love; warm our hearts and souls for worship. Bring us once again to where it all began, that we might become messengers of grace, relighting your flame of love throughout this dark world.

**Thanksgiving** For the gifts of your spirit so freely given to those who ask, we offer up our sights. For wisdom to discern your will and knowledge for the building of faith, we offer up our thanks for healing bringing wholeness to lives and prophecy to declare your living word, we offer up our thanks. For the gifts of your spirit show freely given to those who ask, we offer up our things **Amen**

**Hymn 365** Jesus, the joy of loving hearts

**Readings: John 20:19-23 Acts 2:1-21**

**Reflection** There is a reason for the positioning of Pentecost that is not always clear to us. The number 50 is the key. When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt it was on the fiftieth day that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. It was the time when God started his new relationship with his people. Pentecost, for us, is the time when the Holy Spirit started its own new work with those who had followed Jesus. When the fire and wind came with such drama it signified the new start in taking the gospel everywhere. This was when the Gentiles were brought into the fold and worship groups began to form. They didn't worship in churches. There were no such buildings. The worship was held in private homes. It was powerful and kept the early Christians on their toes. The groups were able to share their faith and take on with gusto the telling of their story.

It was amazing on the Day of Pentecost that the crowds who had formed as the wind and fire made their presence felt were able to hear the message in their own tongue. We do not know just how this worked but I fancy the people did not hear each speaker speak in their tongue but somehow grasped the meaning as they listened. Perhaps it was body language that made it work. Today we would have the benefit of translators behind screens enabling other nationals to hear it all in their language. Many years ago I attended a trade union meeting hosted by the Ynys Mon branch of our union in the old Theatre Gwynedd in Bangor. When our Welsh friends spoke we put on our headsets and could hear the translator speaking in English. I found it fascinating. But at Pentecost the disciples could be understood by a host of nationalities. This is how the Holy Spirit began its major gospel work.

The one thing that strikes me here is that it is essential that we, the listeners, hear and understand in our own tongue. In the book of Nehemiah chapter 8 we hear about Ezra reading the law to the assembled people who had returned from exile. The law was written in Hebrew but the people spoke Aramaic. How did they understand what they heard? Priests were sent to mingle with them and translate so they understood Ezra's words.

Remember too the occasion when Philip was sent by the Spirit to run by the side of the Ethiopian eunuch as he rode along in his chariot. Philip heard him reading aloud from the book of Isaiah and asked him if he understood the words. The eunuch replied "How can I without someone to guide me?" This was the cue for Philip to explain and later baptise the eunuch.

The lesson we can take from all this is that, within our own lives and experience, we can spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. In a former employment I learned a new expression in marketing – the buying signal. This is how the meeting between Philip and the eunuch worked out so that a baptism could take place. I worked in telesales where I contacted managers to offer them a choice of business help. My colleagues were fascinated by how I went about it. I had received no training. I just got a conversation going and listened for the moment when the interest made itself known. My colleagues called this my "over the garden wall" approach. But it worked which was the important thing.

Just chatting with people could offer we Christians the opening to talk about Jesus. Far better than hitting the people on the head with Christianity! WE can start our own Pentecost effect. Amen

**Prayer of Intercession** Father God, in the beginning you separated light from dark and land from sea.

In the sea of life we come to worship, finding an island in time.

In the sea of faith we come to find you, a lighthouse and a haven.

When the sea is blue, and we are cruising, calm and controlled, remind us of your presence, Lord.

Help us to plumb your depths that we might know

that the wider the ocean of love,

the deeper is the sense of peace.

We pray for those who are sailing into life:

for children, and those who care for them and teach them;

for those embarking on a new adventure;

for those celebrating a glad arrival.,

When seas are grey and foreboding, come to us as Christ the pilot, pointing us to the harbour light.

We pray for our world:

for politicians, steering a way through the complexities of life;

for prophets seeking to read the signs of the times;

for those around us who feel trapped by circumstances

or who have lost their way.

Help us to navigate your world, that we might know

that the larger the island of knowledge,

the longer is the shoreline of wonder.

Lord, when seas are white-capped and overwhelming,

may the Spirit be our rudder and strength.

Calm the tempest, strengthen our faith.

We pray for those daily buffeted by events:

those in crisis; those who are coping with illness or pain; those who grieve.

When our boat is fragile, may your grace hold us together. Amen

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn 397** The Spirit lives to set us free

### **Blessing:**

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen**

### **Hymn 395**

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me,  
mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

Daniel Iverson (1890–1977)

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### **Hymn 365**

1 Jesu, the joy of loving hearts,  
the fount of life and light of all ;

from the best bliss that earth imparts  
we turn unfilled to heed your call.

2 Your truth unchanged has ever stood ;  
you save all those who on you call ;  
to those that seek you, you are good,  
to those that find you, all in all.

3 We taste of you, the living bread,  
and long to feast upon you still ;  
we drink of you, the fountain-head,  
our thirsty souls from you we fill.

4 Our restless spirits long to be  
with you, where'er our lot is cast,  
glad when your gracious smile we see,  
blest when our faith can hold you fast.

5 O Jesus, ever with us stay ;  
make all our moments calm and bright ;  
chase the dark night of sin away ;  
shed on the world your holy light.

Ray Palmer (1808–1887) (*alt.*)

### Hymn 397

1 The Spirit lives to set us free,  
walk, walk in the light ;  
he binds us all in unity,  
walk, walk in the light.  
*Walk in the light, walk in the light,  
walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord.*

2 Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light ;  
the dead were wakened by his call,  
walk, walk in the light.

3 He died in pain on Calvary,  
walk, walk in the light ;  
to save the lost like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.

4 We know his death was not the end,  
walk, walk in the light ;  
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,  
walk, walk in the light.

5 By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,  
walk, walk in the light ;  
the Father's kindness is revealed,  
walk, walk in the light.

6 The Spirit lives in you and me,  
walk, walk in the light ;  
his light will shine for all to see,  
walk, walk in the light.

Damian Lundy (1944–1996)

