

## SERMON 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Introduction to the Choir

Something happened on the first Pentecost. Different disciples remembered it in different ways, but they were all there in a room together – as we are this morning – mourning the loss of Jesus; uncertain, a little afraid, a little unsure of what to do next. Then, suddenly, they were filled with a burning ambition that united them, excited them, and sent them out into the world to become him, to become his body on earth doing his work, sharing his Gospel, building his church, being his church. Whatever it was that transformed them, they knew that it was something special; something holy and spiritual. It was the Holy Spirit.

This morning, we celebrate that day back then as the birthday of the church. For it was the actions of those disciples when they left that upper room that established Christ's church across the world and spread his Gospel.

This morning, we remember that like them we also come here with our hopes and fears, joys and disappointments, always nervous about what the future holds, but also here to celebrate what unites us, what excites us, and what sends us out into the world to live like Christ lived and show people what can be achieved when we love people. We come here to celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit.

That Spirit is alive in us – exciting us, uniting us as one body, send us out into the world – when we express ourselves through the gifts that God has given us; when we do and act and live in spiritual, holy ways. One of these spiritual gifts is the gift of song and music that lies in our hearts and resonates through our bodies. Whether it is hymn-singing, music, or the anthems of the choir, on Sunday mornings we are united spiritually by the song and music that resonates here.

This morning, we celebrate that spiritual gift, which unites us in song and music, in this choir celebration service. We give thanks for the dedication of the choir – they meet every Thursday evening to rehearse – and we give thanks for their commitment to come here every week and lead us in our hymn singing, add to our worship through the introits and the anthems, and through their dedication and commitment to help us know that we are one body held together spiritually through the worship that we offer in the hymns that we sing and the music that we hear.

So let us give thanks for the choir this Pentecost Sunday and the way it helps us to be a spiritually united fellowship of Christ's followers, a church, by enjoying this morning their extended contribution to our worship, and let us feel the spiritual power of music and song bind us together sending us out in joy and hope to share the Good News of God.