

**Worship Material**  
**Speaking your language**  
**Materials from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 28th May**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

Lord, be here with us today.  
Let us hear you speaking  
with words we understand deep in our being.  
As we hear your voice,  
comfort, encourage, challenge and motivate us.  
May your Holy Spirit inspire us, unite us and guide us.  
Breathe on us afresh.  
Renew our hope in your love and resurrection.  
Speak new life to everyone,  
wherever they are in the world.  
**Amen.**

**Read Acts 2:1-21**

**Bible notes**

Jesus speaks at the joyful climax of the Jewish festival of *Sukkoth* ('Tabernacles', sometimes called 'Booths'), which commemorated Israel's living in rough shelters during their time in the wilderness. During the festival, water was drawn from the nearby Pool of Siloam and poured out in the Temple courts to recall God's gift of water to his thirsty people, and prayers were offered for rain. Jesus' words draw on Israel's Wisdom poetry, which compares God's wisdom with flowing water (Wisdom 11:4; Sirach 24:30-32). There are also echoes of his earlier conversation about 'living water' with the Samaritan woman in John 4:13-14.

For the evangelist, Wisdom's gift of water and Jesus' offer of living water symbolise the Holy Spirit given by the glorified Jesus (v.39). The Scripture reference in verse 38 is impossible to identify, and its meaning is ambiguous. From whose heart does the living water of the Spirit flow – the believer's (suggested by John 4:14)? Or Jesus' (John 19:34)? It might be both: the Spirit flows from the heart of the lifted-up Jesus, to bring life-sustaining joy to a community experiencing the wider world's hostility (16:1ff). Once again, we see signs of the Spirit's global reach, as its waters flow from the risen Jesus through Jerusalem to the world of a Samaritan woman and beyond.

**Prayer**

At Pentecost, we give praise to you, Almighty God.  
For the glorious gifts of your Spirit:  
**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**  
For dreams and visions of life, light and truth:

**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

For tongues of fire and gleaming light:

**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

For lightening dark corners in our lives:

**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

For warming our cold hearts:

**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

For all you enable us to do and so much more:

**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

For the frisson of excitement your Spirit brings:

**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

For the comfort the guiding the support it offers us:

**we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

**Amen.**

### **A prayer to conclude**

Loving Lord,

thank you that you speak to us in language we understand.

With love and grace, forgiveness and hope in our hearts,

help us to speak to others – with or without words –

so that they might hear you speaking through us.

**Amen.**