



17 MAY 2026



Ascension Sunday

Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 17 May 2026

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Next week 24 May 2026 (Pentecost)

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Trivia Night

We are planning a Trivia night for Saturday 13 June, more details to follow but save the date now.

Pentecost is next Sunday

You're invited to wear red to church next Sunday 24th May as we celebrate Pentecost.

Psalm 68—selected verses

God rises up and scatters his enemies.

Those who hate him run away in defeat.

The righteous are glad and rejoice in his presence; they are happy and shout for joy.

*God, who lives in his sacred Temple,
cares for orphans and protects widows.*

*He gives the lonely a home to live in
and leads prisoners out into happy freedom.*

*How awesome is God as he comes from his sanctuary—
the God of Israel!
He gives strength and power to his people.*

Praise God!



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Rev Gail's Message

Who wrote the Torah, the first five books of the Bible? There are three possible answers to this question. First, we can simply answer Moses and leave it at that. This means that at some point in his lifetime, post the Exodus from Egypt and within the forty years of wandering the wilderness, Moses found the time to write an account of Creation, the first people Adam and Eve, Abraham and his descendants, Joseph as Governor of Israel, his own birth story and subsequent adoption by Pharaoh's daughter along with all the detailed accounts of how many people followed him out of slavery, what they did and how they formed a nation set apart from all others to be a light to all nations. It must have been exhausting, I get worn out writing a 2000-word essay, so I truly admire Moses' stamina.

Most Bible scholars refute the 'Moses as author' answer. They point to the fact that events occurring after Moses' death appear in the Torah, however these may have been added by an editor some time later. So the second possibility is that later authors used the writings Moses left behind possibly compiling and editing the texts to be more coherent.

The third possible answer is what you will hear if you go to Bible College and study the Old Testament (excluding those who operate in a more conservative world view, who will most likely stick with answers one and two). Scholars suggest that most of the Torah was written by the Priests of Israel during their time in Exile in Babylon in the 6th century BCE. With the centre of worship, the Temple, destroyed by the invading army, Priests, scribes and learned men began piecing together the ancient writings still in their possession and recording the myths and origin stories of humankind and Israel's early ancestors. Israel may have collapsed as a nation without the writings of the Torah to remind them of who they were and why God had called them to be a nation.

We do not have to agree on which answer above is correct, however I am sure we all agree that the amazing thing about the Old Testament is its revelation of God's eternal plan to draw all people to him, through Jesus Christ. More on that next week.

