



Introit: Come O Holy Spirit TiS 711

This could be a fun way to begin worship today (optional). If you are feeling adventurous, sing the Nigerian part as well. You could write lyrics for other languages that are spoken amongst your gathering.

Singing: Come down O love divine TiS 398

*OR: Come O God of all the earth TiS 181
OR: Where wide sky rolls down TiS 188*



Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

We are those people and again like that first Pentecost, we are filled with the Spirit.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging

As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these unceded land and waters. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

Prayer

On this day of Pentecost, the day the church began, we worship you loving God.

We thank you for the gift of the Spirit and all that means:

The gifts you give to empower your work in the world.

On that early Pentecost, your people spoke with your voice:

Let us remember that we all speak with your voice in actions and deeds.

With your Spirit come gifts, some honoured more than others:

Let us remember that we all have gifts
Let us not hide them but use them
Let us celebrate our own and others gifts.

Forgive us for the times we have not used our gifts:
Times when we have been ashamed, or not had the courage to lift our voice to honour you in the world.

We are people of God, and we are filled with the Spirit. Amen.





Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Listening

Read: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 &
Acts 2:1-21

For these words of faith and for Jesus the Word,
Thanks be to God.

Reflecting

Rev. Ian Brown

The crowds in Jerusalem saw the evidence of this mysterious Spirit of God at work in the first Christians and they said, "these men are under the influence."

And they were exactly right!

But this was nothing to do with drunks in a pub. They weren't consuming mind altering substances at a wellness retreat. No, these new Christians were under the influence, but just what it was that they were effected by was not so clear.

How do you explain the sort of experience that's mysterious, mind blowing and spirit energising?

Luke, who wrote this story, tries to describe Pentecost as coming like tongues of fire that doesn't destroy and like a powerful wind that causes no damage, the movement of the Spirit is as mysterious as a fire that doesn't burn. Strange, awesome and puzzling!

Peter tried to explain the effect of the Spirit's to the crowds in Jerusalem. He quotes the Old Testament prophet, Joel. "In the last days it will be, declares God, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh."

Now this is quite some claim! God's Spirit to be given to all, uncontrolled, indiscriminate, unprecedented.

Pentecost is not wearing red to show our sympathy with a cause – Pentecost is about being more than

enthused, so inspired by the Spirit, so energised and renewed by the very essence of God, that others are amazed, perhaps even attracted!

Pentecost affirms that God is at loose and at work in the world in a new way. God's presence, that spirit of Jesus, is at work in and around us, with us and maybe, despite us.

The Spirit has been poured out!

Some images might help to explain what I mean.



I had a little kite flying experience, you probably tried it as a child or as a parent too. Lesson one is you need wind!

But I know that with all the wind in the world, having a kite and string is not enough to make it go. There's no key to turn, no buttons to push! You have to learn and prepare. You have to get the kite to catch the wind and then let out the string - then if it doesn't fall flat, off it goes!

Reflecting continues

Weekly Worship. Day of Pentecost 2024. A Worship Resource from Friends of the Fig Tree.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Weekly Worship



Pentecost Sunday

Sunday May 19, 2024

Reflecting continues

The power is there - but to make use of it you have to have the gear and some knowledge. The Spirit is there, like the wind, says the Bible.

Or perhaps if we think of fire as a metaphor. Think of a blistering hot north wind day at the height of summer and picture the effect of a small flame lighting the tinder dry bush. Whoosh, away it goes, powerful, uncontrollable, all consuming.

Or think of Pentecost as a sort of tuning in, like with a radio dial. You know the radio waves are there, unseen. You just need a few clues and the equipment to tune in.

Pentecost is not an event to be wished for lightly! This wind of the Spirit "blows where it will" as Jesus said.

So how does it work,
this power of the Holy Spirit?
And should it be left alone as too dangerous?
My hint is to look at the effects
of the phenomena first.

The first effect of the Spirit in this story from Acts 2 is that the disciples began to speak in other languages, others could understand. The medium and the message bear witness to God's power. Have you ever wondered why was the ability to communicate with foreigners so significant? They could all understand this good news in their own language! The point is, this effect is consistent with the nature of the gospel. God's authentic Spirit opens up channels of communication between people who otherwise wouldn't understand each other. The working of God's authentic Spirit breaks down walls that divide people.

The power of the Holy Spirit opens the way. Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church because the coming of the Spirit is what brings us together, people from all ages, from different backgrounds, races and social standing into the fellowship of the church, breaking down the barriers and opening the way for us.

Pentecost is not a festival of red, not a celebration of wind or fire! Not a dangerous power of God, let loose in the world. These might be useful as signs, but only to point us to a mysterious reality – a reality that we dare to name the very Spirit of God, shown and made real in Jesus.

And not just a historical reality; Pentecost is a reminder that the breath of God, the very same Spirit that was in Christ Jesus is the engine driving the church, it's the dynamic behind apostles, reformers and us. The Holy Spirit is the same energy that directs our work and outreach in the community today. We are a Pentecost people, a people with more than enthusiasm!

The Holy Spirit we celebrate today is the Spirit of Jesus who gave himself in love for us, the Spirit who makes us into a community of faith, the spirit who is present to all and invites us to be under the influence of that same wind of the Spirit. May God give us grace to be open to receive, as we are given, to go and to do, as we are led. Amen.

Singing: O breath of life TiS 409

OR: Where the Spirit is TiS 421

OR: She sits like a bird TiS 418



Offering

Let us bring ourselves, our gifts and our worldly resources to be used in the world to work and honour God. Amen

Notices

The week ahead is **National Volunteer Week.**
May 26 is National Sorry Day.





Responding: Prayers for World & Community

Our hearts cry out for all those caught in the devastation of war within and between nations; We lift all those involved to you, Loving God.

Our hearts cry out for those caught in violence in our country, our cities, our neighbourhoods; We lift all those involved to you, Loving God.

Our hearts cry out for those on the edges, homeless, refugees, sick, old, any who feel isolated in a country with great resources; We lift all those involved to you, Loving God.

We pray for unity for our churches:

- Unity in and between communities that call themselves Christian;
- Ecumenically;
- Within denominations;
- Within and between congregations

We pray for our communities, our neighbourhoods, our families, ourselves ...

God, who fills us with the Spirit, grant us the grace to see Christ in the other as we join in the prayer, he taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Singing: God sends us his Spirit

TiS 412

OR: *Loving Spirit TiS 417*

OR: *Thine be the glory TiS 380*



Blessing

Leave this place, filled again with the spirit,
Recognise and use your gifts
Re-filled with God's grace
Remember we are the church!
In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer
Amen

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