



Worship resources - Pentecost



Sometimes it feels like the celebration of Pentecost has become an exercise in missing the point. What was a radical, communal, inclusive and world-shifting event has become, in much contemporary practice, an individualist, exclusive, status-quo sustaining experience with little more to commend it than a sense of euphoria.

If only we could recapture some of the Church-birthing impact of this significant day, both the Church and the world around it would, like the Pentecost spectators, be amazed by what God is doing among us.

May the Spirit of Pentecost disturb, challenge and empower us as we worship.

Vigil of Pentecost - June 7, 2011

Exodus 19:1-9 or Acts 2:1-11

Psalms 33:12-22 (20) or Psalm 130 (4)

Romans 8:14-17, 22-27

John 7:37-39

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending the gift of your Holy Spirit. Look upon your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and heal the divisions of word and tongue, that with one voice and one song we may praise your name in joy and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.

INTRODUCTIONS

For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines

Acts 2:1-21: The believers are filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and they start to praise God in various languages.

OR **Numbers 11:24-30**: Moses appoints 70 leaders and God fills them with “some of the spirit that was on Moses”. As this happens they prophesy including two in the camp. When Joshua hears about this he asks Moses to stop it, but Moses expresses his wish that all of God’s people would be filled with God’s Spirit and would prophesy.

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b: The world and all its creatures depend on God for provision and breath – which leads the Psalmist to commit to praise God.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13: No one can acknowledge Jesus’ lordship without God’s Spirit, and God’s Spirit, given to all of God’s people, gives different gifts to each person for the good of all.

OR **Acts 2:1-21** (As Above)

John 20:19-23: Jesus appears to the disciples in the Upper Room and commissions them, breathing on them and giving them his Spirit, and instructing them that they are sent as he was sent.

Or **John 7:37-39**: Jesus invites the people to come to him and receive living water – God’s Spirit that would well up inside of them – from him.

[Click here to view the readings](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Acts%202:%201-21%0A%20BOR%0ANumbers%2011:%2024-30%0Acw%20Psalm%20104:%2026-36,%2037b%0A1%20Corinthians%2012:%203b-13%0A%20BOR%0AActs%202:%201-21%0AJohn%2020:%2019-23%0A%20BOR%0A7:%2037-39)

http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Acts%202:%201-21%0A%20BOR%0ANumbers%2011:%2024-30%0Acw%20Psalm%20104:%2026-36,%2037b%0A1%20Corinthians%2012:%203b-13%0A%20BOR%0AActs%202:%201-21%0AJohn%2020:%2019-23%0A%20BOR%0A7:%2037-39

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

God,
who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people,
by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit;
Grant us by the same Spirit

to have a right judgment in all things,
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end.

Collect Two

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
By the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts I of your faithful,
and kindle in us the fire I of your love. Alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.
Open your hand to us, O God, giver of good things. Do not hide your face
from us.

Should you remove your Spirit from us, we shall surely return to the dust.
Send forth your Spirit in this worship service today and let us be re-created.
Renew us, O God, with your spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

The earth is full of your creatures.
Pray a short prayer for humankind and the people of God.
End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Living things both great and small look to you for provisions.
Pray a short prayer for the earth and all creation.
End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Yonder is the sea great and wide.

Pray a short prayer for the witness of the church in the world.

End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Pray a short prayer for the music ministry.

End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

May our meditations be pleasing to you.

Pray a short prayer for the ministry of Word.

End with: Let us rejoice in the Lord. Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

POST COMMUNION

Faithful God,

who fulfilled the promises of Easter

by sending us your Holy Spirit

and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal:

Open our lips by your Spirit,

that every tongue may tell of your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by that same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen *Common Worship*

Holy Spirit, sent by the father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Common Worship*

Almighty God who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit on the disciples with the wind from heaven and with tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: send us out in the power of the

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same Spirit to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

Faithful God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending your Holy Spirit and opening the way of eternal life to all the human race. Keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen

O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into the depth of my heart and there transform me until I am fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed in me. Amen *Elizabeth of Schonau, d.1184*

Holy Spirit of God, descend on us with the power of a mighty rushing wind, and overturn our prejudices; descend on us as tongues of fire, and set us ablaze with the desire to speak for you; descend on us as a dove, that our hearts may be filled with the message of peace. For you are alive in the hearts of those who accept you as their guide, and you reign with the Creator and the Eternal Word, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

O God, your eye is over all your people, and you have called them to a kingdom not of this world; send forth your Holy Spirit into all the dark places of life, to still the noise of our strife and the tumult of the people; carry faith to the doubting, hope to the fearful, strength to the weak, light to the mourners, and more and more increase the pure in heart who see their God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessed Lord God, be to me at all times my unending joy, my eternal bliss and my enduring comfort. Be to me light in the darkness, strength in temptation and refreshment in the desert. Grant that, penitent for my sins, I may never be separated from you and, longing for your face, I may behold you in heaven; for your own name's sake. Amen *Margery Kempe, c.1373-c.1433*

Almighty God, renew us day by day by thy Holy Spirit, in whom you have sealed us for your own: Let all bitterness be put away from us, all anger and evil-speaking and malice; may we be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as you, our Father, has forgiven us for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named: Grant that, according to the riches of your glory, we may be strengthened with power through your Spirit in our inner being; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in your love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is its length and breadth and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Almighty God, who on this day
didst open the way of eternal life
to every race and nation
by the promised gift of thy Holy Spirit:
Shed abroad this gift throughout the world
by the preaching of the Gospel,
that it may reach to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth
with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Book of Divine Worship (and the Book of Common Prayer)

Let us pray
[that the Holy Spirit
may bring peace and unity to all mankind]
Almighty and ever-living God,
you fulfilled the Easter promise
by sending us your Holy Spirit.
May that Spirit unite the races and nations on earth
to proclaim your glory.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal Litany of confession

Let us pray
[that the flame of the Spirit
will descend upon us]

Father in heaven,
fifty days have celebrated
the fullness of the mystery of your revealed love.
See your people gathered in prayer,
open to receive the Spirit's flame.
May it come to rest in our hearts
and disperse the divisions of word and tongue.
With one voice and one song
may we praise your name in joy and thanksgiving.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen *New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal*

Almighty and Everlasting God look with favour upon your people. As on this day you sent upon the first disciples the gift of your Holy Spirit, so pour that Spirit out upon us this day. Open our hearts to your living power. Cleanse us from every impurity and forgive our sin as you have promised. Lead us and teach us and grace us with your presence.

Grant us the dreams and visions you have promised and make us messengers of the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Indeed, unite us through the power of your Spirit so that all people may be moved by the witness we make and so that songs of praise may rise to you here and everywhere, both now and for ever more.

Lord, lead us to be peace-makers, building connections between individuals, focusing on what unites people rather than on what separates us and highlights our differences. Lord, it's easy to harm relationships; forgive us the divisions and bitterness which we have created in our homes and families with friends and colleagues at work. Enable us to seek for a fresh start and give us the power of your Spirit to use opportunities to build up and make new the bonds between people.

Gracious God, Spirit of Life, surging freely, loving generously, seeking endlessly, move upon the face of our world and embrace all its creatures with grace. Startle the powerful and the humble with your power and tenderness, your purpose and determination, your patience and mercy. Hear our prayers of thankfulness and our requests for your intercession. Amen.

O living God, come and make our souls temples of thy Spirit.
Sanctify us, O Lord. Baptise thy whole Church with fire, that the divisions soon may cease, and that it may stand before the world as a pillar and buttress of thy truth.

Sanctify us, O Lord.

Grant us all the fruits of thy Holy Spirit: brotherly love, joy, peace, patience, goodwill and faithfulness.

Sanctify us, O Lord.

May the Holy Spirit speak by the voice of thy servants, here and everywhere, as they preach thy word.

Sanctify us, O Lord.

Send thy Holy Spirit, the comforter, to all who face adversity, or who are the victims of men's wickedness.

Sanctify us, O Lord.

Preserve all nations and their leaders from hatred and war, and build up a > community among nations, through the power of thy Spirit.

Sanctify us, O Lord.

Holy Spirit, Lord and source of life, giver of the seven gifts,

Sanctify us, O Comforter.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, Spirit of counsel and strength,

Sanctify us, O Comforter.

Spirit of knowledge and devotion, Spirit of obedience to the Lord.

Sanctify us, O Comforter.

Prayer of Taizé Community

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O God the Holy Ghost

Who art light unto thine elect

Evermore enlighten us.

Thou who art fire of love

Evermore enkindle us.

Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life,

Evermore live in us.

Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace,

Evermore replenish us.

As the wind is thy symbol,

So forward our goings.

As the dove, so launch us heavenwards.

As water, so purify our spirits.

As a cloud, so abate our temptations.

As dew, so revive our languor.

As fire, so purge our dross

Christina Rossetti (AD 1830-1894)

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Christ Jesus,
before ascending into heaven,
You promised to send the Holy Spirit
to Your apostles and disciples.
Grant that the same Spirit
may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love.

Grant us the Spirit of Fear Of The Lord
that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You.

The Spirit of Piety
that we may find peace and fulfillment
in the service of God while serving others;

The Spirit of Fortitude
that we may bear our cross with You
and, with courage, overcome the obstacles
that interfere with our salvation;

The Spirit of Knowledge
that we may know You and know ourselves
and grow in holiness;

The Spirit of Understanding
to enlighten our minds
with the light of Your truth;

The Spirit of Counsel
that we may choose the surest way of doing Your will,
seeking first the Kingdom;

Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom
that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples
and animate us in every way with Your Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of St. Bonaventure to the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, as God's Spirit came down and rested upon you,
May the same Spirit rest on us,
Bestowing his sevenfold gifts.
First, grant us the gift of understanding,

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By which your precepts may enlighten our minds.
Second, grant us counsel, by which we may follow
in your footsteps on the path of righteousness.
Third, grant us courage,
by which we may ward off the enemy's attacks.

Fourth, grant us knowledge,
by which we can distinguish good from evil.

Fifth, grant us piety,
by which we may acquire compassionate hearts.

Sixth, grant us fear,
by which we may draw back from evil
and submit to what is good.

Seventh, grant us wisdom,
that we may taste fully the life-giving sweetness of your love.

A Manual of Anglo-Catholic Devotion

LITANY

God of power, You have sent the Spirit of love,
forgive us all the times we put conditions on our love.

You have sent the Spirit of joy
forgive us all the times we are disagreeable and unwelcome witnesses.

You have sent the Spirit of peace
**forgive us all the times our words and actions contribute towards
conflict and division.**

You have sent the Spirit of patience
**forgive us all the times we worry because we do not see instant results
to prayer.**

You have sent the Spirit of kindness
forgive us all the times we have neglected people's needs.

You have sent the Spirit of goodness
**forgive us all the times we have wilfully or thoughtlessly caused pain
by our words or actions.**

You have sent the Spirit of faithfulness
forgive us all the times our discipleship has lacked credibility.

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You have sent the Spirit of gentleness

forgive us all the times we have been aggressive in our attitude towards others

You have sent the Spirit of self-control

forgive us all the times we have hurt others by our careless manner.

Gracious and merciful God, grant us your forgiveness and your love that we may truly care for one another.

Refresh and renew us with your Spirit so that we can be fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen

Pentecost Benediction

May God

cause the wind to blow again.

And may tongues of fire

Inspire

Your talking,

Your walking, and your doing,

Today

And forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!

We go, giving thanks to God, Alleluia!

The blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with you this day and for ever.

Amen! Alleluia!

LECTIONARY NOTES 1

After Easter and Christmas, Pentecost is the most important celebration of the Christian calendar. The term comes from the Greek word 'pentekostos', meaning fiftieth. This is because Pentecost occurs fifty days after Passover when Jews celebrated the "Feast of Harvest" (Exodus 23:16) or "Feast of Weeks" (Leviticus 23:15–21). Pentecost became one of the great pilgrimage feasts of Judaism after the exile to Babylon, when Diaspora Jews returned to Jerusalem to worship. It was also an occasion which had become associated with remembering the law given by God to Moses on Mt Sinai.

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Imagine that we are back with the disciples as reported in the account in Acts Chapter 2. We are told that on this Pentecost "God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5) clogged the streets of Jerusalem. People were in town from all over the Roman Empire, the entire known world, huge crowds of people, and, even though they had the same religion, they spoke many different languages.

They had been instructed by Jesus, before he ascended, to go back to Jerusalem and wait there for the promise to be fulfilled. So they got themselves together, filled Judas's empty spot in the roster of the twelve apostles, and then they went into an upper room, behind closed doors, and they prayed while they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. In spite of everything they had witnessed, we suspect that they still had not the slightest idea what they were in for.

The day of Pentecost came and the Spirit of God descended upon the first followers of Jesus. Luke compares it to "the blowing of a violent wind" and "tongues of fire." We are told that as a result of the coming of the Spirit the disciples were empowered to communicate with everybody present. The differences of nationality and language were crossed. This is a reversal of the Tower of Babel story in which different languages effectively divided the peoples, one from another.

In the Old Testament in Genesis Chapter 11 there is the story of the story of the Tower of Babel or Babylon. Babel stood for all that was evil in the Jewish tradition and this was because the people of that city had dared to build a tower which reached up towards the heavens. Of course, there is a play on words here, because the word Babel has connotations of confusion, and the punishment for thinking that they could build such a tall tower was the confusion of their language. The Acts story reverses this judgement, and tells us how the Spirit of God now brought people from different countries, normally separated by their language together, and then enabled each of them to hear what being said in their own language. This meant that all the visitors to Jerusalem heard the disciples speaking in their own tongue. Luke's theological creativity has brought these two stories together and makes a point about the significance of language and speech, especially with regard to the preaching of the good news of Jesus Christ.

By the end of the day, and despite the mockery of critics, three thousand people joined the new movement committed to following Jesus. This was the start of the world's first fully globalized institution, the church. Luke repeatedly inserts summaries of the numeric growth and geographic expansion of the newborn church. The movement burgeoned to over 5,000 "men" (Acts 4:4). In Acts 6:7 he describes how "the Word of God spread. The number of disciples

in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." A few pages later he says that "the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord" (9:31). As Paul and Barnabas ministered in Antioch, "the word of the Lord spread through the whole region" (13:49).

Luke's story ends with the apostle Paul imprisoned in Rome, where tradition says he was martyred — but not before he had trekked 10,000 miles across Asia Minor preaching about Jesus and planting churches. In its first decades the early church fulfilled what Jesus had promised, that the presence of the Spirit meant witnessing with power — "in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Today, about a third of the world identifies itself as Christian, and no religion can claim more adherents.

The feast of Pentecost marks the birth of the Christian church, however Pentecost not only birthed the church, it also produced an institution and bureaucracy. The Spirit produced inspired people, but those people had to be organised. Then there was the whole business of authority and making decisions about things like worship, creed and traditions. They had to arrange the practicalities of collecting money to feed the poor, pay for missionary trips. The problem is one of trying to work out how to contain the spirit within the institution of the church without either extinguishing the flame or blowing up the church.

LECTIONARY NOTES 2

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

The Day of Pentecost is a celebration that is rich and challenging for followers of Christ, but it is easy to miss the transformative call that it offers. The readings for this year bring together a number of different themes, that all combine to beckon us into a deeper encounter with God and God's reign and into a life of Christ-like service. In Acts God's Spirit is given as the empowerment for God's people (sons and daughters) to become prophetic proclaimers of God's goodness — as Peter indicates through the connection with the Joel prophecy. The Pentecost narrative also contains echoes of the experience of Moses and the leaders he appoints to serve God's people, and Moses' longing that all of God's people should be filled with God's Spirit and proclaim God's message. The Psalmist recognises that it is God's breath that sustains all creation and that the only appropriate response is to offer his life in praise of God. In his letter to the Corinthians Paul teaches that God's Spirit is given to all and empowers all so that all of God's people may serve one another. In John's Gospel this calling is opened even further as Jesus, in his gift of the Spirit to the disciples, informs them that they are now sent as he was sent — and he was sent to bring living water to all who would come to

him. Here, then, is the call of this Day – to open ourselves to God’s Spirit, to be empowered and gifted, in order that we may be sent to bring God’s life, God’s grace and forgiveness and God’s empowering Spirit to all others. Pentecost, then, is not a moment of personal bliss, or simply an experience that can be enjoyed in some sort of euphoria. Rather, it is a moment which changes everything, in which our lives are equipped and marked for God’s reign, and in which our quest to follow Christ is made possible through the gift of the Spirit. The evidence of a Pentecost Church, then, is not so much particular gifts or experiences, but the life, grace and service that the Church brings to the world. We are filled with the Spirit not for our own sakes, but for the sake of the world that God loves so dearly.

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: It is deeply disturbing that people who call themselves by Christ’s name across the world have all too often embraced the divisions of the world, and have been known for their retreat from the world, their escapism from the world and its struggles, and their failure to serve sacrificially as Christ did. It is hard to understand what we mean by being “filled with God’s Spirit” when this remains the case. Rather, in every place where people are divided, Christ-followers, who are filled with the Spirit, are called to be at work bringing peace and reconciliation. In every place where there is grief, pain, hatred and conflict, God’s people are called to bring forgiveness, comfort, healing and compassion. In every place where people are weak and vulnerable God’s people are called to strengthen and empower. The gift of Pentecost is the inspiration and empowerment we need to become those who, like Christ, seek to empower others. It is the strength to stand against injustice, oppression and exploitation, and it is the strength to embrace the sacrifices we must make in order to serve the weakest and most vulnerable among us. The Pentecost Spirit drives us back into the world to engage it and serve it. As we are filled with the Spirit we may find ourselves called to work with government agencies, or to challenge them. We may be called to help big business serve and give to impoverished communities, or we may be called to oppose unfair business practices. We may be called to work with individuals and communities at “grass roots” levels, or we may be called to work for systemic change. But, in every call, we will find ourselves being empowered by God’s Spirit, we will find ourselves working to bring diverse people together and to reconcile and unify those who are separated, and we will find our selves drawn into communities of care, engagement and compassion. Thanks to the internet, this work can be more connected and more globally influential than ever. All it needs now is people who, by God’s Spirit, have the divine will to make it happen.

LOCAL APPLICATION: Pentecost has, all too often, been seen simply as a personal experience that moves the recipient into some sort of spiritual elite. The marks of Pentecost have all too often been seen as personal, supernatural experiences and the benefits of Pentecost have been understood as personal edification, personal euphoria and personal strengthening. Sometimes, the Pentecost experience has even been used as the basis for separation and division of one group from another, and as the justification for withdrawal from the world into a kind of spiritual wagon-circling. But, in every community, every neighbourhood and every church God's Spirit seeks to enable people to "speak one another's languages", to welcome and serve one another, and to work together to serve and empower those who most need help and compassion. This is the opposite of what we have often understood as being "filled with the Spirit". When God's Spirit fills us we find ourselves being "sent" to serve others. We find ourselves seeking to bring peace and reconciliation between people – whether it's a married couple in conflict, parents and children who cannot find each other, or church groups that are unable to break free of competitiveness and suspicion. We find ourselves seeking to understand those who are different from us, and we find ourselves reaching out in compassion and service to those who are marginalised, excluded, poor, diseased and rejected. Rather than "lifting us up" above others into a group that is somehow favoured by God, Pentecost "pulls us down" to connect with those that we would never naturally have the strength or inclination to relate to. Rather than leading us out of the world, Pentecost drives us back into it to proclaim and live the prophetic message of God's reign, as Christ did. In what ways is your church community tempted to separate itself from the world around it? In what ways do you sense the Spirit driving you out to proclaim God's grace and glory to those who are different from you? In what ways are you being equipped and called by the Spirit to bring people together and to serve those who need to experience God's presence and activity through human hands?

SERMON OUTLINE 1

Jn 20:19-23 Receive the Holy Spirit

Everything had happened so fast - difficult to make sense of it all... *Early on the 1st day of the week MM had gone to the tomb & saw that the stone had been removed (20.1).* Then Peter & John had run to the tomb- empty; & then Jesus appeared to Mary in the garden & she *went to the disciples...*

1. The Fear of the Jews:- The disciples had witnessed the hatred & hostility of the authorities - so for security *the doors were shut where the disciples*

were assembled for the fear of the Jews. The future seemed bleak - disciples hiding behind locked doors - fearful frightened men... Would the authorities come for them? Would they suffer the same fate as Jesus?

2. The Figure of Jesus:- *Jesus came with & stood in their midst..* He had risen indeed - further reassured them with

a) his Presence - proof of the Resurrection - **1 Cor 15:5,6** - *he appeared to Peter & then to the 12. After that he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living* - story could be verified!

b) his Peace - v21 *Peace be with you.* Their troubled hearts/minds needed this peace - so too do ours/our world!

3. The Forgiveness of Sins: *he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit...'* In addition to this wonderful gift Jesus brought pardon, joy, peace, calm & reassurance... He gave them authority to pronounce the forgiveness of sins - *if you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.* No mere man can forgive sins - but it is the church's privilege to convey his message of forgiveness > **BCP Absolution:-** *He pardoneth & absolveth all them that truly repent & unfeignedly believe his holy gospel.*
By
Norman Porteous

SERMON OUTLINE 2

Come Holy Spirit

The Jews were commanded to appear before God in the Holy temple in Jerusalem three times a year, Passover, celebrating the deliverance from Egypt; Pentecost, also called The feast of Weeks, celebrating the first fruits of the harvest (Israel was an agricultural economy); and tabernacles, commemorating the wandering in the wilderness and the entry into the promised land. Indeed, Pentecost is the anglicised form of the Greek word for 50th and refers to the 50th day after Passover, now the 50th day after Good Friday. For Luke, writing in Acts the coming of the Spirit, the feast of the Spirit, is about harvest! The feast of the Law has become the feast of the Spirit.

And the passage in Acts tells us that same Holy Spirit is available to all, to empower and equip us for the tasks God has planned for each one of us. As we stand in the world, so God stands with us through the Holy Spirit, to help us make sense of our society and culture, to help us speak out in His name, to guide us in all truth, and to encourage, comfort and help us in our times of need. The inauguration of the new era of the Spirit equips us for the job Christ

has appointed of each one of us, namely to take our place in the harvesting process.

But like the first disciples we have a choice. We can decide not to let the Spirit influence our lives or we can open ourselves to the Spirit's promptings. When the Spirit came the more rational disciples could have dismissed what was happening to the people gathered together in the upper room as some kind of mass hysteria and decided not to go out to the crowd. Perhaps some of them could have thought that the outpouring was only for a chosen few, not really to be shared with those outside the upper room. Perhaps others may have thought it was a kind of encouragement for the early believers but that over a short period of time the effects would wear off and that the gifts which seemed to accompany the Holy Spirit's appearance would die out over time (and certainly not last into the 21st century!). Some may have wanted to ignore what was happening, merely because it was not part of their own spiritual or religious experience up to that time. In fact, perhaps all of the early disciples could have decided that they did not want to be part of the harvesting process for any number of reasons.

But they did, caught up in the Spirit (of the moment) they went out where others could see and hear them. And as they went out, people were drawn to them to find out what was happening, what was going on and the growth of the church was started. For when the Spirit came at Pentecost it was not just a case of what He could do for the believers, but also what He could do through them with others. Others who we see had very different beliefs to their own, or even no faith at all. But through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit He would begin to draw all people to the Father, through the cross and resurrection of the Son, and to empower them for the work he had ordained for them since the beginning of time.

God's church is an order where all are included, drawn to Him, and empowered by Him, even some of the ones we don't expect. The first Pentecost for the disciples graphically demonstrated that fact. Does the Pentecost in our lives demonstrate the same? *Sam Cappleman*

SERMON OUTLINE 3

Pentecostal insights - This sermon was first preached in the Metropolitan Community Church of Manchester. It contains several useful insights. One such is expressed thus:

"The Spirit redefined what it meant to be the people of God. Pentecost was an act of great inclusion.

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- * In a day when women were treated like property, God gave them the Spirit in equal measure.
- * To older ones discarded and discounted, God gave the Spirit.
- * To the young, often abused and neglected, God gave the Spirit.
- * To the oppressed, the enslaved, God gives the liberating Spirit.
- * God was personally breaking down barriers welcoming those who too often get left out."

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

The Spirit within and amongst us - There are several sermons in this one!
www.beswick.info/rcresources/PDA9699Ser.htm

Sermons from Seattle - there are ten sermons offered for Pentecost - three of them on the passage in Acts. Pastor Edward F. Markquart, Grace Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington.

<http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/pentecost.htm>

["Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Engines,"](#) the Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler,
Day 1

http://day1.org/1093-ladies_and_gentlemen_start_your_engines

•

["When Pentecost Ends Too Soon,"](#) the Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad, *Day 1*,
http://day1.org/938-whe_pentecost_ends_too_soon

•

["A Birthday Wish for the Church,"](#) the Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, *Day 1*,
http://day1.org/569-a_birthday_wish_for_the_church

CHILDREN

[Proclaiming Faith](#), discussion, prayer, activities for primary grades, activities,
http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?id=206

[Worshiping with Children](#), Day of Pentecost, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

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<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2011/05/year-day-of-pentecost-june-12-2011.html>

["Sermon of the Week,"](#) / ["Mensajes para ninos,"](#) Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles. Sermons4Kids.com.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

["Happy Birthday, Church!"](#) Children's Lesson for Pentecost Sunday (June 12, 2011), from Anna's Hosannas.

<http://annashosannas.net/Pentecost-A.php>

[Story for Children's Worship and Family Activity](#), Pentecost, at *word-sunday.com: A Catholic Resource for the Lectionary* by Larry Broding.

<http://www.word-sunday.com/index.html>

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Come down O love divine (Tune Down Ampney)

O breath of God

Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us

There's a spirit in the air

Spirit of Holiness

Spirit of God unseen as the wind

Born of the Holy Spirit's breath

Head of thy church - Tune Fulda

[Breathe On Me Breath Of God](#)

[O Thou Who Camest From Above](#)

[Spirit Divine Attend Our Prayers](#)

[O Spirit Of The Living God](#)

[Love Divine, All Loves Excelling](#)

[Deep Calls To Deep](#)

[Breathe](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[All Who Are Thirsty](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

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[Spirit Of The Living God](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[Shine Jesus Shine](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

[O Let The Son Of God Enfold You](#) (*Link to YouTube video*)

Please commend this resource to colleagues - they simply send an email to churchnewsireland@gmail.com with the message Passwords in the title