



39A PENTECOST LITURGY

Let anyone

Abstract

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:2-4(NIV)

Jim de Jong
jim@dejongs.id.au

39A Pentecost Liturgy

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Sunday, May 31, 2020 | Easter | Day of Pentecost
Year A

First Reading Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30
Psalm Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
New Testament 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21
Gospel John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39¹

Acts 2:1-21

On the day of Pentecost Jesus' disciples experience being filled dramatically with God's Holy Spirit, the culmination of many centuries of waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise, made known through Old Testament prophets.

This week's resources explore: the unifying power of the Spirit.

	<p>Pre-Service Hearts On Fire Artist: Michael Mangan Album: Setting hearts on fire © 2001 Litmus Productions CCLI: 389309 song: 3457456</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with us</p>
	<p>We Gather Come, Holy Spirit; fill us with your peace. Come, Holy Spirit; unite us in our worship. Come, Holy Spirit; raise us by your power. Come, Holy Spirit, come now.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Dear Lord, we gather in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Spirit to worship you. We bring gifts of speaking, of listening, of music, of prayerfulness, of knowledge, and of wisdom. May our gifts be united to honour you and may each of us receive from you that which we need.</p>

¹ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	Amen.
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #411 – “Filled with the spirit’s Power”</p>
	<p>Welcome There is a disturbing but somewhat humorous story about a minister who returned to visit a church he had once served. He ran into Bill, who had been an elder and leader in the church, but who wasn’t around anymore. The pastor asked, “Bill, what happened? You used to be there every time the doors opened.”</p> <p>“Well, Pastor,” said Bill, “a difference of opinion arose in the church. Some of us couldn’t accept the final decision and we established a church of our own.”</p> <p>“Is that where you worship now?” asked the pastor. “No,” answered Bill, “we found that there, too, the people were not faithful and a small group of us began meeting in a rented hall at night.”</p> <p>“Has that proven satisfactory?” asked the minister. “No, I can’t say that it has,” Bill responded. “Satan was active even in that fellowship, so my wife and I withdrew and began to worship on Sunday at home by ourselves.”</p> <p>“Then at last you’ve found inner peace?” asked the pastor. “No, I’m afraid we haven’t,” said Bill. “Even my wife began to develop ideas I was not comfortable with, so now she worships in the northeast corner of the living room and I am in the southwest . . .”</p> <p>The COVID-19 response has been with us now for over 10 weeks here. Many of us are looking at the end, and in part wondering what awaits us at the other end.</p> <p>During the response we have seen many walls erected, countries separated from countries states from states families from families and individually we from our church buildings.</p> <p>If today’s reading has anything to tell us, it is that the Holy Spirit came to the early disciples in their togetherness Though each of them were individuals.</p> <p>It came as a gift to speak in many languages with one message.</p>

And a church, the bride of Christ was born.
one church, our church.

Let us pray

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may hear your prophetic word.
Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may know how to live according to your ways.
Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may worship you
in Spirit and in Truth.
Amen.

Reading

Acts 2:1–21(NIV)

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?”

⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “ ‘In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

	<p>¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.</p> <p>²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.</p> <p>²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ ²</p>
	<p>Hymn/song/video for you ... deep still</p>
	<p>We say Sorry God, your love is unconditional; your gifts are offered with measureless generosity; your peace is all-encompassing. We are sorry for times when we have put conditions on our willingness to care; when we have kept what we have for ourselves and refused to share with others; when we have failed to seek peace and have caused discord. Forgive us; restore us; renew us by your Spirit of life. Amen.</p>
	<p>Words of Assurance Jesus enters and breathes upon us a word of peace: we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/Song Holy Spirit living breath of God – Stuart Townend</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Wind Came Acts 2:1-21</p> <p>A woman tells about her nephew’s 10-year-old son who came for a visit one clear, July weekend. “Look, Alice,” he said as he ran over to where she was sitting. “I found a kite. Could we go outside and fly it?” Alice noticed there was not a breeze stirring. “I’m sorry,” she said, “The wind is not blowing today. The kite won’t fly.” The determined 10-year-old replied. “I think it’s windy enough. I can get it to fly.”</p> <p>As she peeked through the Venetian blinds she watches determination in action. Up and down the yard he ran, pulling the kite attached to a small length of string. The plastic kite remained about shoulder level.</p>

² [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

He ran back and forth, as hard as he could,
looking back hopefully at the kite trailing behind.

After about ten minutes of unsuccessful determination,
he came back in. Alice asked, "How did it go?"
"Fine," he said, not wanting to admit defeat. "I got it to fly some."

As he walked past her to return the kite to the closet shelf,
she heard him say under his breath, "I guess I'll have to wait for the wind."

Sometimes we're just like that.

You want to do it your way instead of waiting for the 'Wind'—the "Wind of God."ⁱ (1)

In Acts 1:4-8, before his ascension into heaven
Jesus instructed his disciples to wait in Jerusalem
until the Holy Spirit came upon them.
The biblical word for Spirit, is the same word for wind.
The disciples were waiting for the wind—the wind of God.

In Acts 2 we read, "When the day of Pentecost came,
they were all together in one place.
Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven
and filled the whole house where they were sitting.
They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire
that separated and came to rest on each of them.
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

They waited on the wind . . . they waited on the Spirit
. . . and a mighty wind it was
. . . it blew so hard that the world has never again been the same.

After Christmas and Easter,
Pentecost ought to be the most holy day in the Christian year.
To be sure, we would not be here today
if it were not for the manger in Bethlehem.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
Who can doubt that this is the most important statement in all of
literature?

And of course, the cross and the empty tomb
must forever remain at the centre of our faith.

Without the Easter event we have no salvation and no hope.

But how would we know about the manger
and how would we know about the cross and the empty tomb
if it were not for Pentecost
when the wind of God blew and the church was born?

Who would have protected the Holy Scriptures with its very life
if not the Church of Jesus Christ?

Who would have sent out evangelists and teachers and missionaries to tell the Good News

if not the church?

Who would have carried on Christ's ministry of healing bodies, minds, and souls if not the church?

I am aware that some Christians believe in Jesus, but not the church.

But if not for the church how will future generations know about Jesus

And it's living witness to a resurrected Jesus?

The church has is still Christ's body.

It is still his beloved bride.

And Pentecost is the church's birthday.

What a day of celebration it should be!

There are some things we need to notice about that first Pentecost that we need to see.

We notice that the disciples were all together in one place.

The old joke asks, what car is mentioned in the Bible?

The answer is, of course, a Honda.

The King James Version of this verse reads like this:

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come,
they were all with one accord in one place.”

There was a unity of spirit among the followers of Jesus.

There was an openness toward one another

and a concern for each person's well-being.

Christ's disciples,

when they received that great outpouring of spiritual joy and grace

were not split up into various contending factions and denominations,

each seeking to protect his own position and power.

They still remembered our Lord's earnest prayer,

“My prayer is not for them alone.

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

that all of them may be one, Father,

just as you are in me and I am in you.

May they also be in us

so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20-21).

The early church cared about one another

and they cared about the work that Christ had given them to do.

No wonder the Spirit could work with such power.

Think what the Spirit could do through us

if we were more loving, more harmonious, more committed to the same cause.

One of the great scandals of our faith

is that Christians have spent almost as much time fighting each other

as they have fighting the forces of evil and injustice.

They said about those early followers,

how they loved one another.”

There's power in such mutual concern.
It is a power that we need in the church today.

The sign of the Holy Spirit's presence was a tongue of fire.
It was a most suitable emblem.
The human tongue is always God's most effective instrument,
but without His Spirit the tongue's utterances are often just "babble."
The human tongue needs to be guided and supported by that divine tongue of fire,
if it is to be endowed with super-human energy and power,
which the Holy Spirit alone can bestow.

We notice, distinct tongues of fire appeared over each person gathered there in that room.

We are one in the Spirit. Unity must be maintained.
However, it is critical that we note that each of us
will have our own experience of God's Spirit,
and because we differ so much,
your experience will not be exactly the same as my experience.

We come from diverse cultural backgrounds, from diverse age groups.
Some are extroverts, others are introverts.
Some have dominant personalities; others are quite submissive.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever,
but his followers have always been and will always be
a radically diverse collection of individuals.
We celebrate that diversity today.

Christ is the Saviour of the entire world.
He is not the Saviour of each small homogeneous group alone.
He is the Lord and Father of us all.

The Christian movement was never intended to be an exclusive club
directed only toward a small segment of humanity that you happen to
belong to.

It was not for the church that Christ died.
It was not for the Jewish nation that Christ died.
It was for the world that he died.

Yet, a study that showed
that 89% of church attendees believe that the church's primary purpose
is to take care of the member's needs.
Only 11% believe that the church's purpose is to reach out to the world.
To me, that's scary.

Christ gave a universal commission to twelve Galilean peasants,
to go forth and found the church.

On Pentecost a missionary movement was born.
God's spirit entered into the hearts of those who believed.
They in turn shared what they had received with everyone who would listen.

	<p>May we also have that Spirit within us and may the world know by our love and by our witness that we are His.</p> <p>What do you think God is going to ask you and me? Today is a special day. Today is the day we celebrate the birth of the church.</p> <p>And as we do may we ask ourselves: do we have the kind of unity, diversity, and missionary spirit to do the things God has called us to do?</p> <p>If not, let's pray that a wind will blow into our lives and give us the Spirit that we need to be that kind of church.</p> <p>Amen</p>
	<p>Hymn/song Spirit of the living God</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people</p> <p><i>Sit very still and become aware of your breathing. As you breathe in, think of God. As you breathe out, think of the world. Times 3</i></p> <p><i>As you breathe in now, give thanks for the peace the Spirit brings. As you breathe out, pray for peace in the world. Times 3</i></p> <p><i>As you breathe in, receive from God what he has for you. As you breathe out, ask what you should do. Times 3</i></p> <p><i>Keep a few moments of quiet and conclude: Come, Holy Spirit, fill my home with peace. Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love. Come, Holy Spirit, fill my life with your power. Come, Holy Spirit, come now.</i></p> <p>Holy Spirit of peace, we pray for homes and nations where there is discord and conflict. Pour out your breath of peace that people may listen to each other; may respect one another; may honour each other. Holy Spirit hear us. Come, Holy Spirit, come.</p> <p>Holy Spirit of hope, we pray for those who live in despair; for those who can see no purpose in their lives; for those who cannot see a way ahead;</p>

	<p>for those who feel completely alone. Holy Spirit hear us. Come, Holy Spirit, come.</p> <p>Holy Spirit of unity, we pray for your Church, for its ministry to the faithful; for its mission to the world. May the Spirit of Pentecost breathe upon us, that we may witness to the world the comfort, meaning and love that you offer. Heal our differences and make us one in you. Holy Spirit hear us. Come, Holy Spirit, come.</p> <p>In the name of our Saviour we pray. Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>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. AMEN³</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #412 - "Spirit friend"</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>May the power of the Spirit challenge you. May the peace of the Spirit comfort you. May the presence of the Spirit enable you to live in love and service in the name of Christ. Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us</p>

³ English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988

	and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace
	Benediction Hearts On Fire Artist: Michael Mangan Album: Setting hearts on fire © 2001 Litmus Productions CCLI: 389309 song: 3457456
	Thank you

ⁱ Author Unknown. Adapted from Daily Encourager, http://injesus.com/message-archives/inspiration/The_Daily_Encourager/waiting-for-the-wind