

## Pentecost Intergenerational Worship Outline

*Preparation: You may wish to invite the congregation to wear red to celebrate Pentecost. Bring enough streamers in Pentecost colours (red, orange, yellow) for each person to have at least one. They can be crepe paper streamers or lengths of surveyors tape. For the dramatic reading of the Pentecost story, you will need to recruit a Peter and 2 disciples and provide biblical costumes for them. Peter also needs a scroll with Acts 2:17-21 printed on it. Also, a member of the congregation (with a microphone) has a line to ask Peter. For the Theme conversation you will need to recruit people who speak other languages to say "The Spirit is here" in their language. Involve children and youth and their families in the planning and leading of the worship. Adapt to suit the needs of your congregation.*

### *We Gather as God's People*



1. **Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 104:25-34, 35b)

**Leader:** O God, the earth is full of the many creatures you have made!

**People:** Praise God forever!

**Leader:** All living creatures depend on you to survive. You give food, and they gather it and are filled with good things.

**People:** Praise God forever!

**Leader:** When you hide your face, they are afraid. When you take their breath away, they die. But when you breathe life into them, they live and you give new life to the whole world.

**People:** Praise God forever!

**Leader:** We will sing to God forever! As long as we breathe, we will sing praises to God.

**People:** Praise God forever!

**Leader:** May our words please God. Our joy comes from God's presence

**People:** Praise God forever!

2. **Hymn:** Breathe on Me, Breath of God #240 *Hymn Book*, #259 *Book of Praise*, #389 *New Book of Praise*, #488 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, #485 *Book of Common Praise*, #382 *Voices United*, #649 *Common Praise*

3. **Prayer of Approach** (in unison)

Breathe on us, breath of God,  
and fill us with life anew.  
Help us love what you love  
and do what you would do.  
As we worship this day,  
may we glow with the fire divine,  
that we may become like Jesus,  
bringing healing and hope to a hurting world. Amen.

4. **Prayer of Confession**

**Leaders 1 and 2:**

We confess, O God, that the fire of your Spirit does not always glow as brightly within us as it could. Sometimes we almost blow out the fire

**Leader 1:** by wanting comforts

**Leader 2:** instead of your compassion;

**Leader 1:** by seeking power over others

**Leader 2:** instead of your passion for justice;

**Leader 1:** by holding on to our own judgments and opinions

**Leader 2:** instead of listening for your truths.

**Leaders 1 and 2:**

Forgive us, God, and open our hearts to you, that we may celebrate the Spirit within and among us, and so help bring your realm of peace on earth. Amen.

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5. **Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader 1:** Like a gentle breeze, God fans the flames of our spirits within.

**Leader 2:** Like a strong wind, God wakes us up to the need to forgive and be forgiven.

**Leader 1:** Like a mighty storm, God cleans away the past and forces us to look at the future anew.

**Leader 2:** Awakened, forgiven, renewed, we are free to dance with the Spirit.

**Both:** Thanks be to God!



**Sung Response:** Dance with the Spirit (Chorus only) #156 *Voices United* (or see *Theme Conversation Resource Sheet for Jan. 30*)

## *We Listen for God's Word*

6. **Hebrew Scripture:**

God's spirit had been active at the creation of the world. Now we are going to hear a story of how God's Spirit came to empower helpers for Moses that great leader of the Hebrew people. Read **Numbers 11:24-30**



7. **Gospel Lesson:**

Now let's hear the story from John's gospel of Jesus appearing to his disciples and of God's Spirit blessing them. Read **John 20:19-23**.

8. **Hymn:** Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers #60 *Hymn Book*, #253 *Book of Praise*,

#390 *New Book of Praise*, #479 *Book of Common Praise*, #385 *Voices United*,

#647 *Common Praise*



9. **Dramatic Reading based on: Acts 2:1-21**

*(Explain that during the dramatic telling of the story of the Pentecost disciples will need everyone's help to make wind sounds at one point. Have everyone practice that, and at another point the streamers that you were given will be waved to represent the tongues of fire, so please have them ready to use.)*

*(Two disciples in costume enter and begin speaking. Peter is seated in front pew.)*

**Disciple 1:** It was now 50 days since Passover, 50 days since Jesus died on the cross.

**Disciple 2:** We felt so lost and alone and sad. And then, to our disbelief and amazement, he appeared before us, alive again!

**Disciple 1:** We saw him many times after that until he left us, to be fully with God.

**Disciple 2:** We sang and prayed together. And we wondered what Jesus meant when he said he would send his Spirit to be upon us.

**Disciple 1:** Would it happen dramatically, like it did with Moses and the 70 leaders, with God coming in a cloud and making us prophesy?

**Disciple 2:** Would it happen quietly, like a soft breath breathed upon us, like Jesus did when he appeared to us the first time?

**Disciple 1:** Or would it be something completely different? All we knew was we should gather together here in Jerusalem.

**Disciple 2:** And so, on the day of Pentecost, we were all in Jerusalem for the festival. We gathered in one large room in a house. The disciples, the women, including Jesus' mother, Mary, and his brothers, and some children were all there together.

**Disciple 1:** Suddenly, from above, we heard a sound like the rush of a strong wind! It filled the whole house where we were sitting!

**Disciple 2:** Can you make a sound like the wind? *(The 2 disciples lead in making wind sounds.)*

**Disciple 1:** *(Hold up a hand to signal a stop to the wind sounds)* That was just the beginning! Suddenly, we saw what looked like tongues of fire appearing among us! *(Encourage Congregation to wave their streamers.)*

**Disciple 2:** All of us were filled with the Holy Spirit, and we began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave us ability. *(The disciples say, "The Spirit is here!" in another language, and those who will speak in various languages in the theme conversation do the same from where they are sitting.)*

**Disciple 1:** Now, there were Jews from other countries who had come to Jerusalem for the

festival. They were amazed, because each one heard us speaking their in own mother tongues—their own language!

**Disciple 2:** “How is this possible?” they all wanted to know, for they recognized we were just simple folk from Galilee and could not possibly know these other languages.

**Disciple 1:** They were utterly amazed and confused and asked, “What can this mean?”

**Disciple 2:** But some laughed at us and thought we were drunk.

**Disciple 1:** Then Peter stood up to speak. (*Peter stands and comes forward.*) Everyone was suddenly silent. What would he say?

**Peter:** (*speaking slowly and in a strong voice*) People of Judea and all you people who live in Jerusalem, listen! Let me tell you what all of this means. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. After all, it’s only 9 o’clock in the morning! No, what’s happening is a fulfillment of words spoken long ago by the prophet Joel. Listen to what he said. (*Open scroll and read Acts 2:17-21.*)

**Person from the congregation:** What does all this mean, Peter, for me, for this church, for our world today?

**Peter:** I’m very glad you asked. To help you, let me ask some questions. As you respond in your hearts and minds, I pray that God’s Spirit may speak to you. I’ll start by asking this: are you open to the Spirit speaking to you and living in you? (*Pause between each question.*) Do you let the Spirit act and speak courageously through you in compassionate and daring ways? Do you forgive yourself and others when mistakes are made? Do you bring hope and new dreams into the lives of others? Do you share in the passions of Jesus for a world of justice and love?

All these things are possible for you. What it means for you, for your church, and for the world is your joyous challenge to discover!

**Sung Response:** Dance with the Spirit (*Chorus only*)

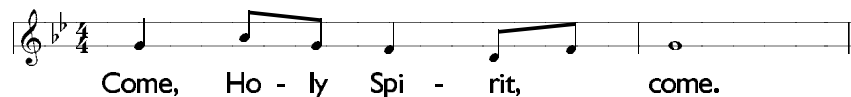
10. **Theme Conversation** (*See Biblical Background document.*)

11. **Hymn:** Come Holy Spirit pg 12 *Seasons of the Spirit Songbook* (vol.9),  
Praise Our Maker #316 *Voices United*  
Spirit of the Living God #376 *Voices United*, #647 *Common Praise*



## *We Respond to God’s Word*

12. **Prayers of the People**



**One:** Blow your spirit into us, O God, that we may be filled with your passion.

**All:** **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**One:** Blow your spirit into the church, O God, that it can speak your good news around the world in every mother tongue.

**All:** **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**One:** Blow your spirit into our community, O God, that the lame might walk, the deaf hear, the discouraged find hope and the sick be healed.

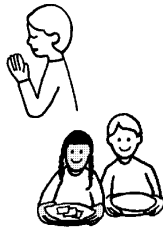
**All:** **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**One:** Blow your spirit into the world, O God, that your love and your peace might reign in every heart.

**All:** **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**One:** Blow your spirit among us, O God, to comfort the afflicted, to challenge the comfortable, and empower us to take up our ministry with renewed commitment and enthusiasm.

**All:** **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**



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**13. The Lord's Prayer**

**14. Offering and Offertory Prayer**

**15. Hymn**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness #108 *Songs for a Gospel People*, #399 *New Book of Praise*,  
#375 *Voices United*

Filled with the Spirit's Power #282 *New Book of Praise*, #194 *Voices United*

Lord God, the Holy Ghost #482 *Hymn Book*, #162 *Lutheran Book of Worship*,  
#486 *Book of Common Praise*

On Pentecost They Gathered #195 *Voices United*

**16. Commissioning and Benediction**

Leader: As we go now to our daily living, may the Spirit come to us in new and exciting ways:

**People: as a gentle whisper, in dreams, in silence, in prayer;**

Leader: as a strong wind, in lives filled with love and compassion;

**People: as a mighty storm, in exuberant hearts of joy.**

Leader: So let us go now, filled with the Spirit all our days!

**All: Amen!**