

CELEBRATING THE HOLY SPIRIT: A SERVICE FOR THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Service suggestions: Pentecost banners may hang in the front and the rear of the worship space. The sanctuary may be decorated with dozens of red geraniums and red balloons, and many in the congregation may wear red, all to symbolize the tongues of fire that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. During the processional, the acolytes twirl yellow and red streamers above their heads to symbolize the tongues of fire that rested on the apostles' heads. The Scripture (Acts 2) could be a dramatic reading for several people. After the final hymn, the congregation may go outside for releasing of doves (homing pigeons secured from a local owner) as a symbol of God releasing the Holy Spirit.

PRELUDE **“Holy Spirit Song/ Pentecost Song”** Goretta Girls

INTRODUCTION

Pentecost isn't a one-time event, but an ongoing and renewing remembrance of hope here and now, in this world and in this place. It's about that which sustains us, enables us, provokes our anger and arouses our compassion. It's about spirit-filled lives bursting out of encounters with evil and suffering, and experiencing joy – not the joy of laughing and dancing but the deep joy of finding hope in a bird's song in the midst of a storm and through the dark night of tragedy.

OPENING WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE *(from Acts 2)*

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.

GREETING

Leader: Living Spirit of God,
help us hold onto our Pentecost moments
as we walk through the storms of life.

**ALL: May we not be afraid to imagine life as it is meant to be for all people.
May we live as if the world we long for were already here.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Spirit of the living God, visit us again, on this day of Pentecost.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

With rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,

Come, Holy Spirit.

With tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,

Come, Holy Spirit.

With speech that unites us in God's love,

Come, Holy Spirit.

With understanding that crosses the boundaries of cultures and nations,

Come, Holy Spirit.

With power from above to make us strong in our weakness,

Come, Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, we come in humility, confessing who and what we are.

We are often unresponsive for we are afraid.

When your Spirit speaks, we turn deaf ears, for we fear what you might call us to do.

**ALL: When your Spirit touches our lips,
we close our mouths, afraid of saying the wrong thing.**

When the wind of your Spirit blows,
we close the windows of our hearts,
afraid the breeze will disrupt our ordered lives.

**When the fire of your Spirit touches us,
we quench the flame, afraid of any change it might bring.
Forgive us, O Lord.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lives that are held in chaos are cradled in peace.

Hearts that are empty are filled with goodness.

Souls in despair are renewed with grace.

**This is the good news: the God who created us is the One who redeems us.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!**

HYMN

"Gather Us In"

TFWS 2236

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:57-62

REFLECTION

"The Main Thing"

Rev. Dr. Don Dotterer received both his MDiv and PhD in Theology & Philosophy of Religion from Boston University. He is a retired elder of the Western PA Conference.

HYMN

"Come, Holy Spirit"

TFWS 2125/UMH 500 Bridge

A CELEBRATION & BLESSING FOR GRADUATION

Introduction

REFLECTION MOMENTS

FROM OUR GRADUATES:

Carl Hetler (Indiana)

Jason Snyder (East Ohio)

WORDS FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park, Director of COSSO

Director: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Director: Let us pray together:

Eternal God, by your grace you have brought us together in your Church, which is the body of Christ. Grant your continuing grace to all who are called to leadership in your Church, that they may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill their ministries; and grant

that we your people may follow where you lead, and serve you faithfully in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Director: Who are presented for graduation?

Coordinator: **Carl Hetler and Jason Snyder** are presented for graduation from the Course of Study.

Director: Now let us offer them our blessings and prayers:

(blessing each graduate):

In the name of Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we celebrate your graduation from the Course of Study. We commend you to your ministry as a Local Pastor in The United Methodist Church and pledge our continued prayers.

Spiritual Director: May the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide you, that in all things you may do God's will in service to the church, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(service continues after blessing each graduate)

COS Coordinator: Our congratulations and prayers go with you. Your certificate will be sent to you.

Director: I invite everyone to offer your prayers and blessings for our graduates -

(you may type your prayers in Chat)

COS Coordinator: Let us pray together,

Gracious God, we thank you for calling faithful servants to be Local Pastors in your Church. We humbly place these graduates in your care. Give them courage, patience, and vision, and bless them with caring communities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Director: And now, remember your call. Preach the Good News. Shepherd the flock of Christ. And in all things, give God the glory, now and always.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare that you have graduated from the Course of Study. *(everyone unmutes themselves and cheers with gusto)*

GRADUATION HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

UMH 593

HOLY COMMUNION FOR PENTECOST

(adapted from liturgies by Thom M Shuman, [The soft petals of grace](http://ionabooks.com), ionabooks.com, 2016)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

For it is holy and right to do so.

Holy Spirit, God of Pentecost, holy and right it is, when our gifts join your dance of healing and hope for all who live in despair.

Holy and right it is, when our voices join all who speak in many different languages crying out for justice. You created the universe out of chaos, you formed humanity in your image and filled us with your Spirit. But sin and death took our breath away, and we chased after them. Prophets came but we thought they were drunk with new wine. So, you sent Jesus to get our attention.

May our hearts embrace those you still are sending into our lives, so we may join with your whole church on earth and with all the company of heaven, as we sing:

**Holy, Holy, Holy are you, most righteous God.
All creation trembles as it rejoices in you.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who breathes the Holy Spirit on us.
Hosanna in the highest!**

When our souls thirsted, Jesus came to offer us a drink of grace.
When our hearts broke, he came to feed us with bread from heaven.
When we lost our way, he came so we could find our way again.
As we remember his life, death and resurrection,
on this great day of Pentecost and in all the days to come,
by the Spirit's grace we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Christ died. Christ was raised. Christ will come, breathing new life into us forever.

Blessing & Sharing

Pour out the Spirit of Pentecost upon these gifts of bread and cup,
and on all your sons and daughters who hunger for your goodness.
As we eat this bread, may our hearts be fed with healing for a broken world.
(break bread and eat)

As we drink from this cup, may our lives be filled with hope for peace in places of suffering.
(lift cup & drink)

And when that great day comes when we gather around one great table, we will sing with one voice, one heart:

Holy, Holy, Holy, blessed is the Spirit of God.

Communion Response

You have given yourself to us, Lord.
Now we give ourselves for others.
You have sent your Holy Spirit, and made us one people.
As people of the Pentecost, we will serve you
and proclaim your Good News with joy.
**Your glory has filled our hearts.
Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

May the Holy Spirit come and hallow all our prayers.
May the Bright God of life burn in our lives,
warm us with courage and joy,
and keep us in the mystery of glory,
through all the days of our journey. Amen.

Postlude

“Soul on Fire”

Third Day