



---

## **We Gather**

---

A video of parts of this service can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/423933004/c64e24dc21>

*Create a space for worship - perhaps with a small table with a bible, cross and candle.  
This week, it would be appropriate to find a **red** cloth or scarf to signify Pentecost.  
Start by lighting the candle. The candle helps to centre us.  
Take some deep breaths as you gather your thoughts towards God.*

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We recognise the stewardship of the Wodi Wodi people of the Dharawal nation for the land on which we gather today.

From river to ocean  
from campfire to hearth  
may the First People  
who have cared for this land  
be blessed.

From breath to song  
from step to dance  
may those who follow your Songlines  
guide us on the journey  
to living honourably in this place.

From greeting to Amen  
from silence to chorus  
may our worship  
join with the voices  
of the First Peoples  
of this Land.

(c) 2017, A.Koh-Butler

## Introduction

*The Jewish festival of Pentecost falls 50 days after the Passover (“pente” means “50”). The Christian church has claimed this name for the celebration of the events that took place amongst Jesus’ disciples during that festival as they sat waiting and praying in Jerusalem after Jesus had ascended. While they prayed, the Holy Spirit moved among them: sounds of the wind filled the room, tongues like fire descended on them and they found themselves compelled into the streets to share the news of God’s love for all people.*

*In the United Kingdom, this festival has also been known as “Whitsun” or “Whit Sunday”. It is believed this comes from Pentecost being a day for baptisms, when participants would dress in white. ‘Whitsun’ is also thought to derive from the Anglo-Saxon word ‘wit’, meaning ‘understanding’, to celebrate the disciples being filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.*

## Call To Worship

The day came and they were all in one place, in *one* place, in one *place*.  
Being together, being in one space, breathing the same air, saying the same words had seemed like the most important thing.

The most important thing.

Then there was a sound- like a rush of wind.

Then there was a sound- the sound of things changing

Then there was a sound- suddenly nothing was the same.

Those who were gathered received new languages.

Those who were gathered received new dialects.

Those who were gathered received new understanding.

Those who were gathered received new power.

Those who were gathered received the Holy Spirit in a new way.

It became clear immediately that what was important had changed.

Immediately it was clear that [what] was important had changed.

What was important had changed. Immediately. That was clear.

Being in one space was not a priority.

Speaking in unison was not a priority.

Being all together to breathe the same air was not a priority.

The power of the Holy Spirit rearranged their priorities to align them with God’s.

God’s priority of diversity,

God’s priority of widespread grace,

God’s priority of neighbours and community,

God’s priority of stepping out, reaching out, being out in the world.

The world that God loves.

The world that is God’s priority.

Being aligned with God’s priorities, it felt, it feels like being on fire.

*Julia Seymour*

<https://revgalblogpals.org/2020/05/26/worship-words-on-fire-pentecost/>

Sing to God a new song!

**Let every generation sing praise to God!**

Let our voices give praise beyond words and ages and cultures!

**May our words and deeds blend in harmony, giving voice to the Spirit who moves among us!**

Come, let us worship God.

*Adapted from Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for Pentecost, 31 May 2020*

**Sing - She Flies On** (see video)

### **Prayer**

Let us pray...

Almighty God, you come to us in fire, rather than in ashes;

in water, rather than in dust;

in the breath of life that drives out the stillness of death.

Our breathing is life, our breathing is you...

Cleanse us from all that clogs up our systems and weighs us down.

Turn our hearts to reach for you.

Refine us, until we shed the fears and worries that keep us from reflecting your light and love throughout this community.

Purge from us the language of excuse and justification, that our lives might preach your gospel to all the world.

Help us, we pray, to leave behind the shadows that threaten to overcome us, so that we may live fully in the resurrection life to which the Spirit calls us. Amen.

Holy One, we confess that we struggle to understand one another.

***Open us to the presence of your Spirit.***

We confess that we have a hard time hearing experiences that don't match ours.

***Open us to the presence of your Spirit.***

We confess that we are confined by our words.

***Open us to the presence of your Spirit.***

We confess that we try to confine your spirit within our words, our experiences.

***Open us to the presence of your Spirit.***

Holy One, open us to the uncontainable, wild presence of your spirit. Teach us to see you, to hear you, to feel you beyond our human experiences and understanding.

***Open us to the presence of your Spirit.***

*Adapted from Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for Pentecost, 31 May 2020*

### **Words of Assurance**

The Spirit moves alongside us, re-creating us in each breath.

As many times as we fear, as many times as we try to keep God in the box of our human experience, the Spirit remains with us, breaking us open.

As many times as we fall short of living God's dream for us, we are forgiven.

***Thanks be to God! Amen.***

**Sing - Breathe On Me Breath Of God** (TIS 407)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=87&v=6ph-t8P2r\\_l&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=87&v=6ph-t8P2r_l&feature=emb_logo)

---

## **We Listen for God's Voice**

---

**Reading:** Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

<sup>3</sup>No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

## Reflection

Holy Spirit, come.

Holy Spirit, come in wind and fire, in ways that will attract our attention.

Holy Spirit, come. Inspire us, teach us, and compel us to serve your world. Amen.

When the weather turns cooler, we love a fire, don't we?  
There is something more than the warmth that draws us.  
There is something about the light;  
there is something about the sound;  
there is something about the smell of burning wood or coal.  
Fire in the fireplace or fire pit draws us in.

Wind, on the other hand, scatters us.  
A good strong gust of wind seems to cut through to our bones.  
It messes up our hair and feels like it rattles through our ears.

Fire and wind together, for us, especially in the heat of summer, can be ferocious and terrifying - as we have seen this past summer.

The story in Acts 2 tells us that:

God's spirit comes in what looks like fire - drawing Jesus' followers together;  
God's spirit comes in what sounds like the wind - scattering us to the far ends of the earth.  
And the scriptures tell us that God's Spirit is both gift, in and of itself, and the bringer of God's gifts, empowering God's people to build God's kingdom on earth.

50 days after Easter, the festival of Pentecost was a Jewish festival.  
The disciples were back in Jerusalem as Jesus had instructed them.  
They were back behind closed doors in a room away from the street.  
They seem to have not wanted to be found - no doubt still afraid of the people who did not believe their story that Jesus had risen or for whom that story threatened their power.

Once again, God breaks into their well-prepared enclosure.  
Wind and fire remind them of their call to take the news of Jesus Christ into all the world.  
It's not like they haven't heard this before. Jesus had told them about it before he left,  
Jesus had prepared them for it, and Jesus had told them what he wanted them to do when he was gone.  
And now, in the presence of wind and fire, they begin to get what it all means.

It will still take years for them to fully understand, if they ever do.  
But for now, it begins to make sense and take shape.

The coming of the Spirit in Acts 2 is insistent.  
This Spirit is never stationary - this story insists in the constant moving of God's Spirit.  
This Spirit nudges, prompts, agitates - pushing the disciples out of their comfort zone and into the city they were hiding from and beyond.

In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul writes that this same Spirit was not just for those gathered in that room that day, but is poured out on all who believe, "To *each* is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (12:7).  
The Spirit is revealed in wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, the gift of tongues (12:8-10). These gifts are poured out on the people of God - on you and me - on the followers of Jesus in Kiama and Jamberoo - not as we choose or decide, but as God's

Spirit chooses. And they are all to be used for the benefit of the whole community - not to be kept to ourselves, but shared, for everyone.

So while we don't get to choose for ourselves, we do get to listen and look for the gifts of God's Spirit in each other and to figure out how we work together so that everyone benefits. And I want to suggest that is one of the fundamental tasks of the Christian community - to discern the gifts of God's Spirit in our midst and figure out how to use those gifts together for the sake of God's kingdom.

I believe deeply, that God has promised to provide us with all we need to be the people God calls us to be. And that God is constantly nudging us to notice and prompting us to use the gifts that are right now in our midst.

So when we think we are comfortable;  
when we are sitting still;  
when we are afraid of what might come next;  
when we become entrenched in "how things are done around here";  
God's Spirit will, and does, stir us up.  
Sometimes it feels like a niggle.  
Sometimes it is more like wind or fire or some other blunt force!  
And that stirring is intended to cause a certain amount of discomfort or dis-ease -  
the kind that won't let us sit still,  
the kind that compels us to try something new,  
to open our minds and hearts to a new way of thinking,  
to open our eyes to see something or someone in a new way,  
to open our mouths to praise the living God,  
to open our hands to offer extravagant love and grace to our neighbours.

How is God moving amongst us today?  
How is God prompting or nudging or agitating you today?

Let us pray...

Holy Spirit, who came as wind and flames of fire, fan into life the gifts and abilities of people everywhere; unite us in a creative love that includes others, celebrates differences, and brings glory to God. Amen.

*Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for Pentecost, 31 May 2020*

---

## **We Respond**

---

### **Prayer for Others**

#### *Prayers for Ourselves*

Let us consider our personal relationship with God. Are we taking the time we need, every day, to seek God's help in all aspects of our lives? We ask for help in removing the barriers that stand between us and your grace:

We ask for the ability to recognise our pride and for the strength to set it aside. It is not about us but about the love of Jesus Christ who stands at the centre of our lives, if we let Him. We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us take a few moments of silence to consider where we are with God.

We ask for the ability to control our anger, including with ourselves, which sometimes spills out and affects others. Help us to question the reasons for our anger and to look for causes within us rather than with others.

There are many things we should be doing to meet our obligations. Give us the resolve and the energy to just get on with it!

We are blessed with many ways of communicating with others. Letters, emails, texts, telephones, SKYPE, social media. We pray for the resolve to pursue links with friends and family which may have fallen into disuse; to mend, develop and strengthen relationships which may mean a lot more to those we have neglected than we realise.

#### *Prayers for those close to us*

Christ tells us to love all those we come into contact with and to try to satisfy their immediate needs. Help us to fulfill our responsibilities to our immediate families, our spouses, partners and children. We pray for their safety and that they may come to know the power of your love in their lives. We ask for the patience to support them and not to judge them.

Let us take a few moments of silence to think about anyone for whom we feel special concern.

#### *Prayers for those who are tasked with Government and Leadership*

Christ tells us to respect lawful government and to meet our obligations to it. We ask that our politicians and governors at all levels be given the wisdom for fair and decisive leadership, in particular over the coming months as we come out from the threat of COVID.

We pray for the leaders of the Uniting Church, for the Presbytery and for our elders and councillors, that their deliberations be prayerful and guided by the Holy Spirit.

We ask that our church's work in matters of social justice bears fruit and earns respect in the wider community.

May the matters which divide our church be managed and settled in good faith and without recrimination.

#### *Prayers for the World Community of Christians*

Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life everlasting. Our task is to make His teachings visible, audible and available wherever and whenever we can, while respecting other religions,

We pray that all Christian churches work in harmony to promote the gospel's teachings, for the leaders of the congregations of the Kiama and Jamberoo churches and for Christians everywhere. We give thanks that we live in freedom of expression, without fear of oppression or persecution and pray for the safety of Christians who are not so blessed.

Lord, receive these our prayers. Amen

*Prepared by Maurice Barton*

#### **Offering**

*In responding to what we have read and how we have heard God speak to us, we commit ourselves to moving with God's Spirit, breathing life in the world around us.*

*If you make a regular financial contribution to the Kiama-Jamberoo Congregation, consider putting that amount aside now and keeping it safe.*

Gracious God, on this day of Pentecost, may we dedicate ourselves once more to your service. May we ever praise you with our words and with our actions. May all that we are and all that we do show the abiding presence of your spirit in this world that you so love. Amen.

*Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for Pentecost, 31 May 2020*

## **Notices**

*Keep an eye on the website, facebook page and the e-news for updates.*

*If you hear of or notice anyone needing a bit of extra support, please let Kath, Janice, or one of the Elders or Pastoral Partners know.*

## **Sing - Filled With the Spirit's Power (TIS 411)**

---

**We Go**

---

### **Sending and Blessing**

As you go from this place,

As you look into the heart of another, try and recognise the touch of God.

As you look into the face of another, try and recognise the Christ within.

As you hear the words of another, listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

And be blessed in the name of God, the source of all life and inspiration.

Be blessed in the name of the Christ whose life liberates our expectations.

Be blessed in the name of the Spirit as she breathes new life through us all. Amen.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

***in the name of Christ. Amen.***