

Lay Leaders' Liturgy

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Worship Resources

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Season of Pentecost
June 5

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**Pentecost Day – 12th Sunday after Pentecost
5 June – 28 August, 2022**

L3 –Lay Leaders' Liturgy, Season of Pentecost 2022, offers worship outlines to assist lay leaders in planning worship following the Revised Common Lectionary.

Each week includes scripture summaries, ideas for setting your space, a call to worship and other prayers, acknowledgement of country, reflection on the scripture(s), discussion questions, a focused time with children, music suggestions, and a closing blessing.

L3 is created by writers with practical knowledge of leading worship and a heart to support and grow others in worship planning and leading.

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Scriptures

Genesis 11:1-9

Creating a tower in order to be safe.

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

I, like the creatures of Earth, celebrate your creation.

Acts 2:1-21

I will pour out my Spirit.

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

I will send the Spirit to be with you.

Theme Focus

Pentecost is the liturgical festival that remembers when the Spirit was sent, and all people could hear the good news in their own language.

Decorations

Flames are a traditional symbol of Pentecost and could be used to decorate the worship space. Alternatively, greetings and labels in different languages for different areas of the worship space could be printed and displayed. The liturgical colour for Pentecost Day is red.

For the multi-generational conversation, provide blocks and other items for stacking.

GATHERING

Acknowledgement of Country

As we gather this morning on the lands of the _____* people, we acknowledge that the Creator Spirit has been moving in this land since time immemorial, speaking to the traditional owners of this land and guiding their language and customs. We pay respect to the elders, past and present, and seek to listen to their wisdom and hear the spirit of truth in their voices.

**(Insert the name of the traditional Aboriginal people of the area, or use 'First peoples')*

Call to Worship

From Psalm 104:24-35

Let us gather and hear the words of the psalmist:
God, you have done so many things!
You made them all so wisely!
The earth is full of your creations!

Let us rejoice in your wisdom.

And then there's the sea, wide and deep,
with its countless creatures—
living things both small and large.
There go the ships on it,
and Leviathan, which you made, plays in it!

Let us rejoice in your creation.

All your creations wait for you
to give them their food on time.
When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled completely full!

Let us rejoice and be thankful.

Let God's glory last forever!
Let God rejoice in all that was made!
God has only to look at the earth, and it shakes.
God just touches the mountains, and they erupt in smoke.

Let us rejoice in God's glory.

I will sing to God as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I'm still alive.
Let my praise be pleasing to God; I'm rejoicing in the name of God!
But let my whole being bless you, God!
Praise be to God!

Let us rejoice and be glad. Sing praises to God. Amen.

Music Suggestions

The bright wind of heaven	<i>Together in Song 263</i>
Halle, halle, halle	<i>All Together OK 319</i>
10,000 Reasons (bless the Lord)	<i>Matt Redman</i>

Prayer

Let us join in prayer.

Creator God,
who by your Spirit has made all things come to be,
blow into our hearts the truth of your love,
a yearning for peace,
and the inspiration of your gracious mercy.

As we listen together today,
may we feel your message stir in our hearts
and guide all our ways.
Amen.

LISTENING

Scripture

Genesis 11:1–9

All people on the earth had one language and the same words. When they travelled east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them hard." They used bricks for stones and asphalt for mortar. They said, "Come, let's build for ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and let's make a name for ourselves so that we won't be dispersed over all the earth."

Then Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower that the humans built. And Yahweh said, "There is now one people, and they all have one language. This is what they have begun to do, and now all that they plan to do will be possible for them. Come, let us go down and mix up their language there so they won't understand each other's language." Then Yahweh dispersed them from there over all of the earth, and they stopped building the city. Therefore, it is named Babel, because there Yahweh mixed up the language of all the earth; and from there Yahweh dispersed them over all the earth.

Multi-generational Conversation

- Provide blocks and other items for stacking.

- Invite children to help stack blocks and other items to make a tower. If enough children are present, you might split into two groups.

Did you hear what was in that reading? *(Receive all answers)*

The people were trying to build a tower that reached the heavens. Have you ever tried to build a tower? *(Receive all answers)*

Today, I thought we might try to build a tower that reaches the heavens – or perhaps just up to the roof! Would you like to help me?

(Build the tower together. As the building continues, you might like to talk about how you are building it. Focus on making the tower as tall as possible. If it falls, you might like to try again.)

Did you enjoy making that tower? *(Receive all answers)*

What do you think would happen if we built a tower of bricks? How tall do you think we could make it? Have you ever been to a really, really tall tower? Did you feel like you could touch the sky?

The people in the story wanted to touch heaven. But instead, the tower came tumbling down – just like ours did – and the people who were working together to build it moved to all different parts of the world. And they forgot how to speak the same language. I wonder how that made them feel? *(Receive all answers)*

In the next reading, the people still don't speak the same language, but they all hear the same message. Let's listen and see if we can work out the message.

Acts 2:1–21

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.
Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.
The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
And everyone who calls on the name of God will be saved.*

Music Suggestions

Veni, Sancte Spiritus	<i>Together in Song 752</i>
Spirit of God	<i>All Together OK 264</i>
Still	<i>Reuben Morgan, Hillsong Worship</i>

Word for Today

Genesis 11:1-9 and Acts 2: 1-21 feature a range of languages. In the reading from Genesis, the people use their language to work together to build a tower that will enable them to be safe, lest another flood covers the earth. Yahweh sees this and deliberately scatters them across the earth and mixes up their language.

Despite having a range of languages that prevent communication, the people all hear the same message in the reading from Acts. We aren't told the specific message, only that it fulfills the words of the prophet Joel who communicated a vision of the Spirit inspiring the young and old, people of all genders, and those considered the least in society. Everyone will see the visible signs of God's Spirit.

Ideas for Reflection

- What message of God’s Spirit might we need to hear today?
- What are the barriers that stop us from communicating with others – even those who speak the same language?
- In our community, do we believe that God pours out the Spirit on ALL people? Or do we listen only to those with power or authority?
- Verse 5 says that these are ‘pious Jews’ who are gathered for Pentecost. When did the message spread beyond the Jews, and how does this influence our understanding of Pentecost as the birth of the church?
- How does our understanding of the Genesis reading change if we think of it as a myth to explain the different languages spoken around the world?
- What do the language and words we use tell others about who we are?

RESPONDING

Music Suggestions

Pentecost prayer	<i>All Together Now 99</i>
Spirit divine, attend our prayers	<i>Together in Song 406</i>
Breathe on us	<i>Kari Jobe</i>

Prayers for Others

Spirit of God,
may we hear you in the rushing wind,
may we see you in the gentle flames,
may we know you in the rippling waters,
Spirit of God, be with us.

Spirit of God,
may you comfort those who are sick,
may you be with those who are grieving,
may you refresh those who are tired,
Spirit of God, be with us.

Spirit of God,
may you inspire those in leadership,
may you bless those on the margins,
may you encourage those with prophetic words to speak.
Spirit of God, be with us.

Spirit of God, hear our prayers.
Spirit of God, soothe our fears.
Spirit of God, blow through us.
Amen.

Offering

Holy God, we offer these gifts for your work in this place and in this community. May they be used with wisdom and grace for your glory. Amen.

SENDING OUT

Music Suggestions

Pour it all out, Jesus	<i>All Together OK 299</i>
Where the Spirit is, there's freedom	<i>Together in Song 421</i>
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom	<i>Fielding Benjamin David</i>

Blessing

May God bless you and keep you, may the face of God shine upon you, and may you know God's peace. Amen.