

Pentecost

Intergenerational Worship Stations

Setting up

- Our worship space has tables in it already so we placed a station at each table. If that is not an option you could set these up around the walls of your space, or where there are gaps around your church. Ensure there is enough room to move around.
- At each station place an instruction sheet with the word and image of the holy spirit attribute. We used a different colour for each one (red for fire, blue for water etc). We used a fabric of that same colour, a photograph or piece of art related to the attribute and anything specifically needed for that station. We used a few drawings done by members of our congregation inspired by the readings from a previous year.
- Images of Holy Spirit from Engage Worship
<https://engageworship.org/ideas/images-the-holy-spirit> at this link.
- Royalty free images are available from <https://unsplash.com>
- Dove images are available from Strandz
<https://www.strandz.org.nz/pentecost.html>
- Holy Spirit Flame colouring was a free download from Illustrated Ministry that is no longer available but they have other options for colouring that can be purchased including Mosaic designs which would make for a nice collaborative prayer and colour activity <https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/all/pentecost> . The Strandz link above also has some colouring options.
- We invited our flower team to create arrangements using red, orange and yellow. We also had someone make a birthday cake as Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. You may also want to invite people to wear red, orange or yellow if they wish.
- If your congregation are used to engaging in worship in this way you may find that you need to just give a basic outline. If this is newer to your congregation you could ask one person to be at each station to help people engage in the activity.
- With all types of worship, additional support might be needed for little ones, older people or anyone who is less familiar to what is happening or is unable to read or hear.
- If you have non-English speakers in your congregation having instructions translated would be useful.

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Beginning the Service

Begin the service by inviting people into worship through liturgy, song and confession and any other elements you would normally have at the beginning of your worship.

Reading

Read the reading using sound effects, links are included.

Acts 2:1-21

“On the day of Pentecost all the Lord’s followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGkh1W5cbH4> - Wind - Play for 20s

Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgHKb_7884o - Flame - Play for 20s

The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uRtW8lBe0I> - Words - *Play loudly initially and then keep playing this through the rest of the reading at a lower volume.*

Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. They were excited and amazed, and said:

Don’t all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done.

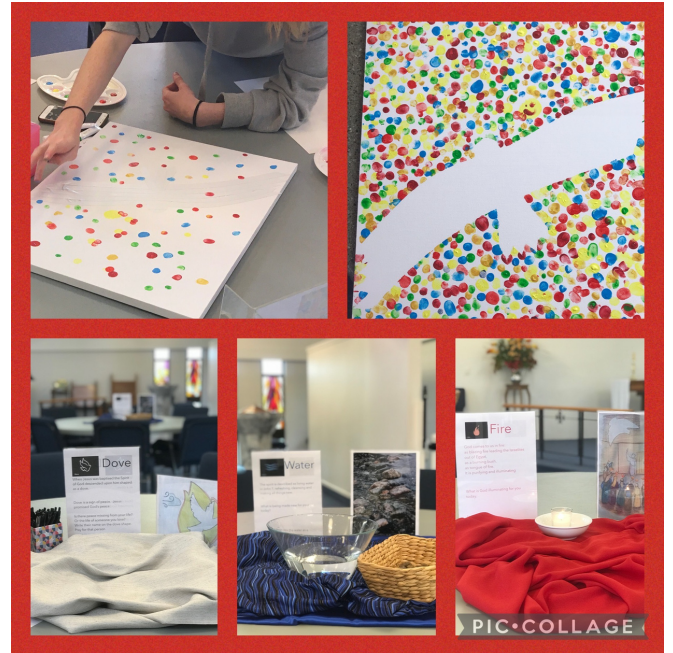
Everyone was excited and confused. Some of them even kept asking each other, “What does all this mean?”

Others made fun of the Lord’s followers and said, “They are drunk.”

Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd: Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I have to say! You are wrong to think that these people are drunk. After all, it is only nine o’clock in the morning. But this is what God had the prophet Joel say,

“When the last days come,
I will give my Spirit
to everyone.

Your sons and daughters
will prophesy.
Your young men
will see visions,
and your old men
will have dreams.
In those days I will give
my Spirit to my servants,
both men and women,
and they will prophesy.
I will work miracles
in the sky above
and wonders
on the earth below.
There will be blood and fire
and clouds of smoke.
The sun will turn dark,
and the moon
will be as red as blood
before the great
and wonderful day
of the Lord appears.
Then the Lord
will save everyone
who asks for his help."



Sermon

You may choose to have a few words spoken here, however, to allow more time for people to engage with the stations, you may wish to forgo the sermon, or have a short homily.

Sharing time

As part of a sharing time you might want to invite people to share an experience of the Spirit. You may also like to invite people to reflect or wonder about the experience of those in the Acts reading. How would it have felt to hear something spoken in your own language?

Voices

Consider inviting people of different ages to lead different parts of the service. If you have speakers of other languages you may want to do prayers or liturgy using the different languages in your congregation.

Stations

Fire

Image: fire. Red fabric. A large candle, in a large sand tray, small tea-lights/votive-candles for people to light and place in the sand tray. A picture of people gathered with tongues of fire or flames

On the instruction sheet:

God comes to us in fire,
as a blazing fire leading the Israelites out of Egypt,
as a burning bush,
as tongues of fire dancing on a head.

It is purifying and illuminating

What is God illuminating for you today?

Light a candle



Dove

Image: dove. White fabric. Dove shapes to write on and cut up.

On the instruction sheet:

When Jesus was baptised, the Spirit of God descended upon him like a dove.

The dove is a sign of peace.

Jesus promised God's peace.

Is there peace missing from your life? Or the life of someone you love?

Write that persons name on a dove shape and pray for them.



Helper/Advocate Collage

You will need: Canvas with a dove shape made with tape, different coloured paint (we used red, orange and yellow), old towels, wet wipes.

On the instruction sheet:

Jesus promised a helper, an advocate, to enable us to continue his work in the world, we are his hands now.

Jesus said a lot of things in his last days with his disciples.

We have a new covenant to fulfil in loving one another.

We have the Holy Spirit to help us in our work.

Dip your finger in some paint and place your fingerprint on this canvas

as a symbol of the work we will do for God and the diversity we have amongst us.



Wind

Image: wind (we used a dandelion blowing). You will need: instruction sheet. Green fabric. Position the station near a door or window or place a small fan so people can feel wind on their face.

On the instruction sheet:

At Pentecost there was the sound of a mighty wind.

Jesus could stop the wind with a word.

Stand at the door and feel the wind on your face.

Breath out and then slowly breath in for 4-5 counts,
then breath out for 4-5 counts.

Do this several times.

Feel both the power of the wind and it's most gentle of touches.

What is God saying to you today?



Water

Image: picture of water. Blue fabric. Bowl of water. Basket of stones.

On the instruction sheet:

The spirit is described as living water in John 7, cleansing, refreshing,
making all things new.

What is being made new for you today?

Drop a stone into the water as a symbol of being made new.



Praying in colour

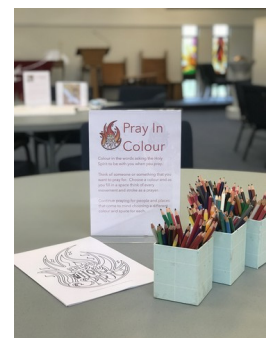
You will need: instructions, colouring page, colouring pens or pencils, sharpener.

On the instruction sheet:

Colour in the words asking the Holy Spirit to be with you as you pray.

Think of someone or something that you want to pray for. Chose a colour and as you fill in a space think of every movement and every stroke as a prayer.

Continue praying for people and places that come to mind, choosing a different colour and space for each.



To finish

You might want to draw the time to a close with a prayer, song or the Lord's Prayer

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Before communion we used the invocation of the Holy Spirit found in the ordination service at <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/898.html> with an additional prayer at the end:

Creator God, you are our God, and we worship you.

We thank you for your mercy and love.

Holy Spirit, we have remembered your first coming in power.

Today in anticipation,
like the first disciples waiting for your coming,
empowering Spirit, we watch and pray.

Silence

Holy Spirit of God, meet us in this moment as you met the apostles of old.

Be with us, Holy Spirit,

Bring faith and hope, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit,

Be present in your power.

Sing: Wairua Tapu (or another suitable song or hymn)

Light Christ Candle

New birth for us by water and the Spirit is your gift, a gift that none can take away;
grant that we may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Fill us with the joy of your presence.

Increase in us the fruit of your Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of love, patience and gentleness,
the spirit of wonder and true holiness.

AMEN.

Communion

At communion you can offer the laying of hands and pray for the Holy Spirit following receiving the bread and wine. Invite people to stay kneeling/standing at the altar and have other people available to pray. You could ask another priest or several people with experience in prayer ministry to pray those who have remained.

At the end

Finish the service with a final song and a blessing or as you normally would. You may want to show the fingerprint art and place it where everyone can see it. Once the paint is dry you can remove the tape and the picture is complete.