

An All-age worship service from
the Diocese of Gloucester

Pentecost: languages and learning

BACKGROUND PREPARATION

This outline is for all-age worship which could be Eucharistic or not according to local custom. Where it is being used within a Eucharist you will need to include the Eucharistic prayer, invitation etc. It is also possible to use sections of the material as appropriate.

Readings

Ezekiel 37: 1- 14 "breathe life"
Acts 2: 1-21: "talking fire"
John 15: 26, 27 16: 4b- 15: "receive"

You will need:

Lots of candles
Bag containing ideas for communicating including phrase book
Headings or symbols for prayers; bowls of salt and plates

THE WORSHIP OUTLINE

We gather

Opening hymn

Informal welcome

Making ready

Leader Alleluia. Christ is Risen

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia

The gathering:

This section could be used as an introduction to either Eucharistic or non-Eucharistic worship. It can replace the whole opening section up to the confession.

Voice: The fire of God is coming! Sing praises

All: Sing praises to God

Voice: The wind of God is blowing! Sing praises

All: Sing praises to God

Voice: The joy of the Spirit is here! Sing praises

All: Sing Praises to God

Voice: Sing praises to God all the earth! Sing praises

All: Sing praises! Sing praises! Sing praises!

Making connections: Comment that this is the day when the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. It's a day of celebration and a day of challenge. It's a day of praise and a day of prayer. Let's imagine we are gathered with the followers of Jesus as they wait and pray, day after day.

Silence for 1 minute.

Voice: They were all together in one place, praying and waiting, praying and waiting, praying and waiting.

Silence for 30 seconds ending with either prayer of preparation or

Almighty God,
help us today to be open to your Spirit,
to hear you word, proclaim your glory,
and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

We say sorry

Making connections: Comment that sometimes we forget about God's Holy Spirit at work in our world. Sometimes we forget to listen to God or to one another. Sometimes we are too lazy to understand and care for our world.

Invite everyone to come and light a candle as a sign of their need for God's Holy Spirit in their lives.
Play appropriate music e.g. Taize

When everyone has returned to their seat use formal confession:

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days. Amen.

Gloria - suggest using 'Peruvian Gloria' or other hymn-type version

Collect of the day
Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We listen Please sit

Reading: Ezekiel: There are several creative versions of this available – or you could play "Dem bones" as a piece of music.

Acts: see drama at end

Gospel: Introduced with fanfare or at the end have several voices saying "This is the Gospel of the Lord" getting louder and louder!!

Talk

[If you have someone who can speak fluently in a language other than English, you might invite them to say this opening section!"]

Have a bag containing 5 items for communication. Ask people to guess 5 different ways – suggest mobile phone, printed out email, FaceBook page, postcard, speech bubble [talking]

All of these are great; but what if we don't understand the language being used. Pull out a phrase book. Ask if anyone knows any useful phrases in other languages.

It's very difficult to communicate when we don't understand what is being said. In some countries we can't even guess because the writing is different – China, Russia, Egypt [put some of these onto a screen or card]

Learning languages is really important – it helps us to understand other people, to share ideas and resources.

The feast of Pentecost was a time when people from all parts of the world came to Jerusalem to celebrate. So it was a great time to begin the task of spreading the news about Jesus and building the church.

The disciples were waiting for the Holy Spirit. Jesus had told them that the Spirit would teach them all things, would lead them into truth, and would even give them words to say. And on that first Pentecost they found they could make themselves understood!

Sometimes understanding isn't just about spoken languages; it's about trying to put ourselves in someone else's shoes. Talk about programme "Secret Millionaire" and how it's only when the rich see for themselves the problems people face that they understand.

God's Holy Spirit is still with us and still helps us to understand new things. Sometimes it's about understanding those of a different age, or from a different culture. God's Spirit also helps us to understand the things of God. And as we become open to listening to one another and to God so the life of the church grows as we share together. It's as if we were dead bones coming to life!

We declare our faith

Making connections We've been thinking about the coming of the Holy Spirit, so let's declare our faith in these words [use appropriate form or

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We respond

Either

Explain that salt is a symbol for lots of things – it makes us thirsty, preserves things, heals, cleans, flavours.

Place headings and/or symbolic objects in 5 areas of church to create simple prayer stations. Invite people to walk around to each area and pray. As a sign of their prayer invite them to pick up a pinch of salt and drop it onto a plate.

5 stations: Children – a pile of toys, books; other countries – a globe; people in need – some charity magazines; other churches – list of other local churches; where you live – local objects.

Play music as this happens

Intercession activity that allows everyone to bring their prayers to God: at the end gather prayers together. Play music. It doesn't have to be too solemn!

Gathering prayer

Minister: Holy Spirit, who teaches us all things, we pray for your wisdom and understanding in every situation that we find difficult – in our world, in our community and in our own lives. Help us to watch and wait and work for peace and healing in your world. In your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Alternative form of intercessions

Prepare prayers in the usual way but for each section invite people to make a different action e.g.:

- o Breathe on us God, with your spirit [invite people to blow gently] – pray for the life of the church and for ourselves
- o Challenge us God, with your spirit [invite people to make flame movements with hands] – pray for justice in the world
- o Teach us God, by your spirit [invite people to put hands to ears] – pray for relationships and community
- o Heal us God, by your spirit [invite people to place hands on heart] – pray for those in need
- o Encourage us God, by your spirit [invite people to cup hand around mouth] – pray for ourselves to be good witnesses to the Good News

In a non-Eucharistic service, close the prayers with the Lord's Prayer.

The Peace

Minister: God makes peace within us— let us claim it.
God makes peace between us—let us share it.
The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

If this service is a Eucharist, an authorised Eucharistic Prayer, the Breaking of Bread, invitation and the Lord's Prayer are inserted here. Otherwise the Lord's Prayer is used at the Prayers.

* Recommend using Prayer D

We go out into the world

Blessing

Minister:

May God's Holy Spirit be in your life [place hand on heart]

May God's Holy Spirit be in our world [sweep hand out in front]

May God's Holy Spirit be love between us [hold hands]

And the blessing of God etc...

Amen.

The Dismissal

Minister: Go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia

A reading for two voices and a chorus based on Acts 2: 1 – 21

Chorus: listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen [getting louder]

Voice 1: It was the day of Pentecost

Voice 2: and all the followers of Jesus were in one place

1: Suddenly...

2: Suddenly... there was the sound of a rushing wind

Chorus... woosh, woosh, woosh, woosh, woosh, woosh [getting louder]

1: a violent rushing wind from heaven

Chorus: woosh, woosh, woosh, woosh,, [even louder]

2: [shouting] and flames of fire appeared on everyone's head

Chorus: pshwwh, pshwwh, pshwwh

1 and 2 together : and everyone began to talk in other languages ---

Chorus .. mutter, mutter, mutter, mutter

1: and everyone

2: could understand each other

Chorus: Bonjour!!

[pause]

1: There were lots of visitors in Jerusalem from all over the known world

2: They were amazed at what was happening and rushed up to find out more

Chorus [chanted] There were Parthians, Medeans, Mesopotamians; Judeans Cappadocians, Pontians; Asians, Phrygians; Pamphylans, Egyptians; Libyans, Romans; Cretans, Arabians; and Elamites..

But none from England!

1: and everyone could hear their own language being spoken

2: it was very confusing..

1: so some said they must be drunk

[pause]

1: So Peter stepped forward to speak to the crowd

2: it's only 9 in the morning! He said, we're not drunk

1: no – all this is happening just as the prophet Joel said

2: he said there will come a day when there will be

Chorus: Visions and prophecy

1: not just for a few

Chorus: but for men and women, sons and daughters, boys and girls

2: Even on slaves

Chorus: even on slaves!

1: and there will be signs of fire and mist and darkness and noise

2: for it is the great and glorious day of the Lord

Chorus [loudly] And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved!