

# Special Sundays

Liturgy,  
art, &  
poetry  
for special days  
of worship

## Liturgy for Pentecost Sunday

Written by Rev. Adrian White



---

*We invite you to implement this service as-is, or adapt it for your context. Either way, please attribute credit as follows: Liturgy by Rev. Adrian White | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

---

### *Introduction*

#### *About Pentecost Sunday*

On Pentecost Sunday, Christians around the world celebrate the formation of the church when the Holy Spirit called people into community as Christ's body and blessed them with universal understanding of languages. Pentecost, which literally means "fifty days," is a moveable feast which always occurs on the seventh Sunday after Easter. Though it may not be as ubiquitous as other key Christian celebrations, it is a tremendous day in church history. Theologian Willie James Jennings asserts: "Only the gracious work of God in creation matches this moment of prevenient grace."<sup>1</sup> He's not alone in this conviction; some theologians describe Pentecost as the Church's birthday. Others describe it as a "big bang" that brought the Church into being, for just as God's Spirit came rushing into the world over the waters of creation, in Acts 2, God's Spirit rushes into the world to gather and transform God's people.

So where does that leave us? If we are willing to be amazed, Pentecost is one of the most awe-inspiring days in our Christian calendar. If we are willing to be transformed, it is an opportunity to be renewed in energy and faithfulness toward the work of God's kingdom on earth when all people will experience true liberation and boundless love.

*You may choose to use parts of the description above as a verbal introduction to the service or you can include it as a blurb in your bulletin.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Jennings, Willie James. *Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible: Acts*. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017).

# Introduction *(continued)*

## About the Service

It is traditional to celebrate Holy Communion/the Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday, so Communion liturgy has been included in this order of service. Additionally, many Christians employ red as the liturgical color of the Holy Spirit. You may wish to adorn your sanctuary with fabric and images to represent the mysterious presence of the Holy Spirit.<sup>2</sup>

## Music Suggestions

Here is a list of suggested hymns and songs for congregational singing and special music:

- “Be Thou My Vision” by Eleanor H. Hull, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905)
- “Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us” by Janie Alford (1979)
- “Bring Many Names, Beautiful and Good” by Brian A. Wren (1989)
- “God of the Sparrow” by Jaroslav J. Vajda (1983)
- “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” by Edwin Hatch (1878)
- “Spirit of the Living God” by Daniel Iverson (1926)
- “Rest on Us” by Maverick City Music (2021)
- “Not in a Hurry” by Will Reagan (2018)
- “Holy Spirit” by Bryan & Katie Torwalt (2020)
- “Your Spirit” by Tasha Cobbs Leonard ft. Kierra Sheard (2017)
- “Spirit Medley” by Israel & New Breed Ft. Lucia Parker and Onaje Jefferson (2023)

## Scripture Suggestions

The primary scripture reading for this liturgy is the story of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-21, however, you may wish to also include a secondary scripture reading. Here are some suggested texts:

- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Romans 8:22-27
- John 14:8-17, (25-27)
- Genesis 11:1-9

## About This Liturgy Outline

- *Italicized lines are notes for worship leaders.*
- Unbolded lines are to be spoken by worship leaders and, when appropriate, printed in bulletins or projected on screens.
- **Bolded lines are to be spoken by the congregation and printed in bulletins or projected on screens.**

---

<sup>2</sup> These Pentecost banner designs incorporate imagery from Acts 2: [sanctifiedart.org/banner-worship-art/pentecost-banner-designs](https://sanctifiedart.org/banner-worship-art/pentecost-banner-designs) Depending on your time and capacity, you may wish to bring these designs to life as paper lace banners. Alternatively, you could paint or color in the designs.

# Order of Worship

## Prelude/Processional

*You may wish to process in elements for Communion, as well as any red fabric to adorn your Communion Table or chancel.*

## Welcome

*In your welcome to the gathered community, we encourage you to share more about Pentecost and your particular celebration of it during this service. Below is a paragraph you can adapt to include in your welcome and/or print in the bulletin:*

Welcome, family of faith! On this Pentecost Sunday, we are joining Christians all around the world to celebrate the formation of the church when the Holy Spirit called people into community as Christ's body and blessed them with universal understanding of languages.

Some theologians describe Pentecost as the Church's birthday. Others describe it as a "big bang" that brought the Church into being, for just as God's Spirit came rushing into the world over the waters of creation, in the very beginning of Acts, God's Spirit rushes into the world to gather and transform God's people.

So where does that leave us? If we are willing to be amazed, Pentecost is one of the most awe-inspiring days in our Christian calendar. If we are willing to be transformed, it is an opportunity to be renewed in energy and faithfulness toward the work of God's kingdom on earth when all people will experience true liberation and boundless love.

So may we be willing to be amazed. May we be open to being transformed. Let us worship God together. Please rise in body or in spirit to join me in the call to worship.

## Call to Worship

As we gather together in this place,  
let us strain our ears to hear the rush of wind, the crackle pop of fire.

**We listen for your call, God of spirit and flame.**

**We take our place in your unfolding creation.**

Rejoice, for God's spirit flows among us!  
Rejoice, for today the church embraces transformation.

**In the midst of rebirth, we join our voices in praise!**

**Let us worship God.**