



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

2019 WORSHIP RESOURCE

Opening Voluntary

*Call to Worship

As they gathered to hear the Word proclaimed on that first Pentecost,
so too, we gather today to celebrate the coming of the Spirit.

Awe came upon the community of faith as they encountered the living Lord.

Make us aware, Holy Spirit, of the majesty and awe of God's continuing presence.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn

#401

Here in This Place

Call to Confession

The world would have us hide our mistakes and put on masks of perfection and invulnerability. But the Spirit beckons us to take off our masks, admit our mistakes and allow ourselves to be vulnerable before a merciful and loving God. With the confidence of those who are truly loved and accepted, let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

God of rushing wind and dancing flames, we confess that we have too often resisted the urgings of the Spirit and turned away from those who are different. You seek to enlarge our understanding and bridge our divides, but we cling to that which is comfortable and known. We have hoarded our resources out of fear rather than following the example of your earliest church and sharing with all as any have need. Forgive our lack of trust in You. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, personally and as the church, as on that first Pentecost. Embolden us to live renewed and transformed lives as disciples of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Silence

Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

The good news and blessed truth is this: God's Spirit is already here and at work in each of us personally and communally. Even now our mistakes and pretenses have fallen away and we are seen by God and claimed as God's own beloved.

Friends, hear and trust the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Passing of the Peace

Beloved, let us share the peace that comes with the assurance of forgiveness.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***Sung Response** **Hymn** #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us this day, O God, through the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear these familiar texts in new and fresh ways. Move them from mere words on pages, spoken in this place, and write them on our hearts that we may hear your Word for us today. **Amen.**

First Reading Acts 2:1–21 or Genesis 11:1–9

Psalm Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

Second Reading Romans 8:14–17 or Acts 2:1–21

Gospel Reading John 14:8–17 (25–27)

Sermon

***Hymn** #694 *Great God of Every Blessing*

***Affirmation of Faith** from *A Declaration of Faith*, PC(USA)

We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of life, the Renewer and Perfecter of God’s people, the One who makes real in us what God has done for us. ... We believe that by the power of the same Spirit, the church can be set on its way again, even when it seems beyond hope of renewal. We are grateful heirs of reformations and awakenings. We are faithful to the reformers of the past when we hold ourselves open in the present to the reforming and renewing work of the Spirit. ... We testify that today this same Holy Spirit makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel and leads us into the Christian community. The Spirit brings us out of death into life, out of separation into fellowship. ...The Spirit impels us to make the unity of Christians visible to a divided world and assures us that we shall be one.

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

We are in awe, O God, of your great love. Your faithfulness is beyond measure even when we are fickle in our faithfulness to you. We thank you for your extravagant love manifested in your willingness to become flesh and dwell among us in Jesus the Christ. In his life, death and resurrection, he taught us what it means to love you and our neighbors. We are deeply grateful that when Jesus knew he would soon return to you, he presented us with a new commandment and gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower our ability to love one another. And so we ask ...

[sing one refrain of *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*, hymn #469]

Holy Comforter, we pray for those who mourn in the midst of loss ... of a loved one ... of independence ... of relationships ... of income ... of dreams. May your consoling presence be felt amidst the tears and your faithfulness attend to lingering fears. We pray especially for young adults whose lives are mired in transitions and whose expectations of adulthood too often fall short. Ease the anxiety that can arise from ever-changing landscapes and open avenues for

community, friendships and faith that they may know you hold and sustain them each step of the way ...

[sing one refrain of *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*, hymn #469]

Divine Helper, we pray for all who need assistance ... for parents tasked with the sacred trust of raising children ... for youth who must navigate the often turbulent waters of culture, peers and responsibilities ... for spouses who must remember who they were before children ... for singles who seek to thrive in a coupled world. We pray especially for youth who endeavor to discover and live into the purpose for which you created them. Shine the light of your wisdom in each and every life that they may find their strength in your presence and guidance ...

[sing one refrain of *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*, hymn #469]

Great Advocate, awaken us to the places where your people are in peril and where the inequities we take for granted continue unchecked. Move us from the complacency of our own comfort and compel us to live out the convictions of our faith. You commanded us to love one another. May that love be made known through justice that reflects your best intention for the world. We especially pray for children—those whose names we know and whose freckles we can count, as well as those whose names we may never know, but who are every bit as much our responsibility. Quicken within us a deep desire to live into the promises we make in baptism—promises on behalf of the Church Universal for all God’s children.

[sing one refrain of *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*, hymn #469]

With all who have come before and who are yet to come, we praise you, Sovereign God, giver of the Holy Spirit: Comforter, Helper, Advocate. We ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: **Our Father...**

Invitation to Offering

Psalm 71:17 reminds us that it is God who teaches us from our youth. Today, we have the opportunity to partner with God in nurturing the faith of youth and young adults and to join God’s ongoing work of addressing the needs of children living in at-risk contexts. Together with Presbyterians across the nation, each year we collect the Pentecost Offering. Every gift goes directly towards building a life of faith for children, youth and young adults — 40 percent of which stays in our local area. Let us give with glad and generous hearts that which is truly God’s own.

Offering

***Offertory Response**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of every good gift and source of abundance, take these our gifts and tithes and use them in your service. Multiply them by the power of your Holy Spirit that they may kindle faith where it lies dormant, spark compassion for those whose lives are even now being formed and ignite us to action on behalf of the most vulnerable. In your name we pray, **Amen.**

If the Lord’s Supper is celebrated, the communion liturgy is included here (see 2018 BCW, pp. 26–29 or pp. 118–149).

***Hymn** #475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***Charge and Benediction**

Children of God, go from this place secure in the knowledge that you have been given everything you need to love one another as Christ commanded. The Holy Spirit dances on your head and in your heart, empowering you to live as those who have been transformed by God's mighty presence—because you have and you are.

Now may the One who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of God's glory with great joy be with you now and forever more. **Amen.**

***Congregational Response Hymn** #539 *We Will Go Out with Joy*



Prepared by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca L. Davis, Associate Professor of Christian Education,
Union Presbyterian Seminary