

## Celebrating a Liturgy of the Word with Family Pentecost Sunday, Week of prayer for Christian Unity ends today.

Preparation – allow some time to prepare

- Read through the outline beforehand
- Arrange seating and set a prayer focus in the centre. Include feathers as part of your prayer focus
- There are some links to open beforehand. A song at the beginning psalm, and end. Music to play quietly while the poem and the prayers to the holy spirit are read at the start.
- Share the reader role. Encourage your readers to practice beforehand and pause for commas and full-stops. Don't correct children as they are reading or during the Liturgy. The person who reads the poem and invocations while music plays needs to practice reading to the music beforehand.

**SONG:** Spirit of God in the Clear Running Water © Miriam Therese Winter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf8oNfYT-bM>

**SIGN OF THE CROSS:** In name of the Father... OR Ki te ingoa... Wairua Tapu nau mai rā – Welcome Holy Spirit, welcome everyone. Haere mai! Today is Pentecost Sunday. It is fifty days since we celebrated Jesus rising from the dead! It is also the last day in our week of Prayer for Christian unity.

**READER** When the poem and litany after it are read, some music will play quietly in the background.

Use this music, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6jCd2hSVKA> or other music of you like, and play quietly as the poems and invocations are **slowly** read. Let the music continue for a minute or so after the invocations are finished.

**Don't** show the video image (listen only) and **don't** allow the video to go into ads at the end.

Hildegard of Bingen (a German Benedictine abbess and saint who died 1179) once said, '**I am a feather on the breath of God.**' As the poem is read, think of yourself as a feather, upheld by the 'wind' or breath of God. (pause) you might like to give everyone a feather to hold.

**READER** *Into the newness of each day,  
A feather carried by the wind  
Dances in the breeze,  
Moving according to the breath that holds it,  
Sustained, guided,  
Upheld in its journey,  
Surrendering,  
Now to play,  
And now to storm,  
Awash with soft reflected light  
Un-earnt beauty.  
While the soft caress of love itself,  
Wraps invisible fingers  
Round each tiny downy tuft.*

(pause – allow a few moments of silence)



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bird%27s\\_Feather\\_in\\_Flight.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bird%27s_Feather_in_Flight.jpg)

**INVOCATIONS - READER:** We are like a feather on the breath of God. Let's now ask the Holy Spirit to be with us in everything we do. The response is, 'Breathe on me breath of God.'

Holy Spirit, be welcome here with us  
Soften our hardened hearts.  
May we welcome all that is good  
And refuse all that is evil  
Open us to new possibility  
May we stop causing hurt  
Lead us to encounter Jesus the Word  
So that we will be changed  
Bring forth in us love and joy  
Patience, peace and kindness  
Faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God  
**All** Breathe on me breath of God

*Pause for a time to reflect on these words. Allow a time of silence then gently stop the music.*

**COLLECT - READER** Let's bring to mind all we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

Beautiful God, pour out on us, and on all people right across the face of the earth, the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of all believers with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **All: Amen.**

**First READING: Acts 2:1-11** *International Children's Bible*

**READER 1** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

**READER 2** Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**READER 1** They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there.

**READER 2** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages.

**READER 1** There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a crowd came together. They were all surprised, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

**READER 2** They were completely amazed at this. They said, "Look! Aren't all these people that we hear speaking from Galilee? But each of us hears them in their own language. How is this possible? We are from different places:

**READER 1** Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the areas of Libya near Cyrene, Rome (both Jews and those who had become Jews), Crete and Arabia.

**READER 2** But we hear these men telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!"

The Word of the Lord

**ALL** Thanks be to God

*Follow the reading with silence. Let some words from the reading, go over and over in your mind.*

**PSALM: 104** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YtviTuigaM>

Use the video and sing the response, Lord send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth, or read the psalm together.

Bless the Lord, O my soul  
O Lord my God, you are great indeed  
How manifold are your works O Lord  
The earth is full of your creatures

May the glory of the Lord endure forever  
May the Lord be glad in his works  
Pleasing him be my theme  
I will be glad in the Lord

If you take away their breath  
They perish and return to the dust  
When you send forth your spirit they  
are created  
And you renew the face of the earth

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13** *International Children's Bible*

**READER 1** So I tell you that no one who is speaking with the help of God's Spirit says, "Jesus be cursed."

**READER 1** And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," without the help of the Holy Spirit.

**READER 2** There are different kinds of gifts; but they are all from the same Spirit.

**READER 1** There are different ways to serve; but all these ways are from the same Lord.

**READER 2** And there are different ways that God works in people; but all these ways are from the same God.

**READER 1** God works in us all, in everything we do.

**READER 2** Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone.

**READER 1** A person's body is one thing, but it has many parts.

**READER 2** Yes, there are many parts to a body, but all those parts make only one body.

**READER 1** Christ is like that too.

**READER 2** Some of us are Jews, and some of us are Greeks.

**READER 1** Some of us are slaves, and some of us are free.

**READER 2** But we were all baptized into one body through one Spirit.

**READER 1** And we were all made to share in the one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**ALL** Thanks be to God

*Follow the reading with silence. Let some words from the reading, go over and over in your mind.*

**Discuss:** 'Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone.' How do I help everyone?

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-23** *International Children's Bible*

**READER** A reading from the gospel of John.

**ALL** Glory to you O Lord.

**READER** It was the first day of the week.

That evening Jesus' followers were together.

The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the Jews.

Then Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!"

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

His followers were very happy when they saw the Lord.

Then Jesus said again, "Peace be with you!

As the Father sent me, I now send you."

After he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven.

If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL** Thanks be to God.

*Follow the reading with silence. Let some words from the reading, go over and over in your mind.*

**READER Discuss** Put your hand up to your face and breathe into it. What do you feel? How might it have felt to the disciples when Jesus breathed on them? Why do you think Jesus did this? How did Jesus want those people to feel?

**REFLECTION:**

**READER** The following poem is by New Zealand poet, James k Baxter.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks,  
Inside and outside the fences,  
You blow where you wish to blow.



Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the sun who shines on the little plant,  
You warm him gently, you give him life,  
You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves.



Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the mother eagle with her young,  
Holding them in peace under your feathers.  
On the highest mountain you have built your nest,  
Above the valley, above the storms of the world,  
Where no hunter ever comes.



Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,  
In whom we know already that the battle has been won.  
You bring us to our Brother Jesus  
To rest our heads upon his shoulder.



Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn,  
Consuming us with flames of love and peace,  
Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.



Lord, Holy Spirit,  
In the love of friends you are building a new house,  
Heaven is with us when you are with us.  
You are singing your songs in the hearts of the poor  
Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the Father.



– James K. Baxter, 'Song to the Holy Spirit', in *Collected Poems* (ed. John Edward Weir; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979), 572.

### Prayer of the Faithful:

**READER:** Let us pray together. As God's people, we are called to pray for the needs of the whole world. The response to the petitions is, 'and renew the face of the earth.' Lord send out your Spirit, **All** and renew ... **For the Church** – that we welcome the Holy Spirit, develop the gifts we are given and use these gifts for the good of the church and the good of all people.

**(Silence)**      **Reader:** Lord send out your Spirit      **All:** And renew the face of the earth.

**For all Christian denominations** – that people of different religions learn to look to each other with love, see Christ in each other, and reconcile our differences.

**(Silence)**      **Reader:** Lord send out your Spirit      **All:** And renew the face of the earth.

**For national leaders throughout the world** – that they act with wisdom and compassion making sure that their countries laws protect everyone equally.

**(Silence)**      **Reader:** Lord send out your Spirit      **All:** And renew the face of the earth.

**For people who have lost their jobs or business because of Covid-19** – that people will support them and that they will stay hopeful.

**(Silence)**      **Reader:** Lord send out your Spirit      **All:** And renew the face of the earth.

**For people who stand up against powerful people who cause harm** – that these people will continue to fight for justice especially for the poor people of the world.

*(Silence)*      **Reader:** Lord send out your Spirit      **All:** And renew the face of the earth.

**For social media, radio and television** – that the media become tools for respectful communication and uplifting and inspiring storytelling and entertainment.

*(Silence)*      **Reader:** Lord send out your Spirit      **All:** And renew the face of the earth.

**READER:** And now let us pray together as Jesus taught us: Choose Māori or English

*Māori at this link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy/mass-readings-in-te-reo/> Words are on the screen.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and forever. Amen.

#### **COLLECTION:**

**READER:** Something that Christian people do is support people who need help. There are lots of people who need help. Let's talk about who needs help and what we could do to help them.

- **Your Parish:** your parish and presbytery still have operating costs.
- **The Caring Foundation Covid-19 appeal** to donate, click [here](#)
- **Catholic Social Services Auckland** to donate, click [here](#)
- **The Catholic aid agency Caritas** to support their work, click [here](#)
- **St Vincent de Paul** contact your parish or click [here](#)

**READER:** Thank you for your participation in today's Liturgy of the Word. Let us go to be one. To seek to be one with Christians of other denominations. To share with people the good news that the kingdom of God has come. And to love as Jesus loved. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you. May God bless you and your family.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SONG:** Let's sing together. Holy Spirit Rock © Michael Mangan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4oZhwocJKo>

**OR** Send us your Spirit O Lord © Dan Schutte <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUL-eygqQZO>

**OR** Wairua Tapu © Wiremu Ready & Keith Southern <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj--BvTkkys>

.....  
Week of Prayer for Christian unity – Resources <https://geii.org/index.html>