

Pentecost...alive in the spirit!

Open Table Worship Order of Service

What is Pentecost?

The primary account of the first Christian Pentecost appears in the Acts of the apostles, chapter 2, verses 1-21.

Pentecost is a Greek word which means fifty (50) or fiftieth. We can recognize “penta,” which means “five,” in other words: pentagram, pentagon, Pentateuch.

Pentecost is the Greek name of a Feast Day at which the people of ancient Israel celebrated the day, according to tradition, when Moses brought the tablets -- the law-- down from Mount Sinai. They set the festival at seven (7) weeks, or 50 days, after Passover. The Hebrew name of the feast, Shavuot, means ‘seven weeks’, and the Greek ‘Pentecost’ means ‘fiftieth’ or ‘fiftieth day.’

The Christian Day of Pentecost, first took place on the Jewish Pentecost feast day. So we have kept the Greek name in use at the time.

Coffee & Chat

Look at the flames in the centre of your table.

- What does the flame have to do with Pentecost?
- When you hear the word ‘spirit’ what comes to mind?
- What does ‘spirit’ mean to you?

Gathering –

All: We are here. We are who we are.

I am here.’ or ‘I am who I am.

All: You are who you are, created in the image of God.’

Singing

Looking into the Bible *Acts 2:1-21*

An interview - with Peter & Andrew

Pentecost Prayers

Conversations

- To what in the Pentecost story can you relate? To what in the story do you find it difficult to relate?
- When have you witnessed or experienced fresh understanding in a situation, seemingly arising from the Spirit?

- When have you experienced the presence of the Spirit?
- How might you open yourself to be more receptive to the Spirit?

Reading scripture Romans 8:26 NRSV

‘Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.’

Conversations: going deeper

- When you pray, how might you open yourself more to the help of the Spirit?
- Where are your ‘weak’ spots? How might the Spirit help you?

Sharing & Caring – Bringing light into our world

Communion song

Lord’s Prayer

Service of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Spirit of power and life,

Transform us through this meal.

Empower us to serve your people and honour your creation.

Strengthen us to do your will.

May our very veins overflow with your Spirit,

the Spirit of Pentecost,

Uniting us as the living body and blood. Amen.

Singing

Blessing

God, your spirit,

like the wind, enables us to soar like eagles,

like fire, warms and empowers us.

Make us eager to share your power and magnificence

with all we meet. Amen.

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." --Howard Thurman

Go renewed and alive in the spirit!