



***A thought about worship...***

“We now live in the final days, the time between the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the return of our Lord. Therefore, Pentecost is an essential moment in God’s saving time, the moment in which we now live, awaiting the return of our Lord.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 162).



The Pentecost, Alexander Sadoyan, 2003

After the Easter season, the Church begins the observance of **Pentecost**, the festival commemorating the gift of the Holy Spirit. An extended season for reflecting on how God’s people live under the guidance of His Spirit, Pentecost extends from the seventh Sunday after Easter to the beginning of Advent. The color associated with the summer-long season after Pentecost is green, symbolizing growth. However, the color on the first Sunday of Pentecost, also called “Whitsunday,” is red, representing flames of fire.



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

May 23, 2010 (Pentecost)

## GATHERING

O Lord, how manifold are Your works!  
In wisdom You have made them all.  
**You send forth Your Spirit –  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
Of counsel and strength,  
Of knowledge and the fear of the Lord –  
And Your creation is renewed.**  
May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
May the Lord be glad in His works.  
**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.**  
May our meditation be pleasing to Him,  
For we rejoice in the Lord.  
**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
Praise the Lord!**

– from Psalm 104 and Isaiah 11:2



Pentecost, Iain McKillop, Contemporary



*O For A Thousand Tongues*

O, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim;

To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;

'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free;

His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, list'ning to His voice, new life the dead receive,

The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,

Your loosened tongues employ;

Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

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INVOCATION

Spontaneous prayers of welcome and praise

*O For A Thousand Tongues*

Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given,

By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: Charles Collignon (1725-1785)



*Pour Out Your Spirit*

Pour out Your Spirit, Lord, on Your people.

Pour out Your Spirit, Lord, on Your people.

Pour out Your Spirit, Lord, on Your people.

Let it reign.

Pour out Your mercy, Lord,...

Pour out Your fire, Lord, ...

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

*O For A Thousand Tongues*

O, for a thousand tongues to sing

My great Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King,

The triumphs of His grace.

Glory to God, and praise and love

Be ever, ever given,

By saints below and saints above.

The church in earth and heaven.

Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: Charles Collignon (1725-1785)

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the**

**Holy Spirit of promise, who was given to us and who has sealed**

**us in Him, to the praise of His glory.**

Since we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit, as we go forth

into the world to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

—Romans 15:13, 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:25



## THE WORD

Acts 2:1-21

Genesis 11:1-9

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, 25-27

## THE TABLE

Blessing – Remembering – Taking – Reflecting

*The Lord's Prayer* (spoken)

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 our debts as we forgive our debtors  
 And lead us not into temptation,  
 But deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
 Forever. Amen

*Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.  
 Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.  
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
 Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Public domain. Daniel Iverson.



READING: Acts 2:1-21

*Holy Spirit, Rain Down*

Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;  
 O Comforter and Friend, how we need Your touch again.  
 Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;  
 Let Your power fall, let Your voice be heard;  
 Come and change our hearts as we stand on Your word;  
 Holy Spirit, rain down.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
 No mind can know what God has in store.  
 So open up Heaven, open it wide,  
 Over Your church, and over our lives.

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## PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Let us express our unity with the church of all ages on this Pentecost  
 Sunday by professing our faith in the words of the Heidelberg  
 Catechism:*

**In His divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit, Christ is not absent from us for a moment.**

**By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives not earthly things, but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.**

**Through the Holy Spirit, Christ pours out His gifts from heaven upon us His members.**

**The Spirit, as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God.**

**The Spirit has been given to us personally, so that by true faith the Spirit makes us share in Christ and all His blessings, comforts us, and remains with us forever.**

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 47, 49, 51, 53



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, that He may be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, who abides with you and will be in you. He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:15-17a; 26-27)

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God (verse 3)*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glow with Thy fire divine.

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TIME OF OFFERING

*Holy Spirit*

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Let the presence of the risen Lord  
Come renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your word to come alive in me;  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
May Your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin,  
In each thought and deed and attitude.  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace;  
Turn my strivings into works of grace;  
Breath of God show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show Your power once again on earth,  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise;  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
That in unity the face of Christ  
May be clear for all the world to see.

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