

# **A Seasonal All Age Worship Service**

(SAAW023)

## **Pentecost: “Promise, Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit”**

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## PENTECOST: “Promise, Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit”

### Service Aim:

To celebrate the first coming of the Holy Spirit and to teach that the Holy Spirit came: 1) as Jesus **Promised**, 2) to equip followers of Jesus with **Power** to live for Him and to be His witnesses and 3) to bring the **Presence** of God to be with us always.

### Biblical Reference(s):

Acts 1:4-5,8, Acts 2:1-41, Matthew 28:19-20

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### Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Responsive prayer – “Come Holy Spirit”
Opening song(s):	<u>Song(s) Praising Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	“Waiting”
Reading 1:	Acts 1:4-5, 8
Link:	Jesus <b>Promised</b> the gift of the Holy Spirit but the disciples had to wait
Drama:	Presentation of Acts 2
Songs:	<u>Songs inviting the presence of the Holy Spirit</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk 1:	What does it mean? <b>1) Power</b> to be a follower of Jesus and to change the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrate with electrical items unplugged /plugged into power source</li> </ul>
Project pictures:	Pictures of the world’s needs with the song, “For the sake of the world”
Interview:	Interview people about how they have been equipped to follow Jesus
Song:	<u>Song about the power of the Holy Spirit</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk 2:	<b>2) Presence</b> of God with us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus promised to always be with us. His Spirit lives within us.</li> <li>• How do we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?</li> </ul>
Prayer:	Prayer of commitment to Jesus and inviting the Holy Spirit to fill people
Songs:	<u>Song(s) inviting the Holy Spirit to come and fill people</u> (See Appendix 1)
Prayers:	Asking the Holy Spirit to show people where He wants to bring change
Lords’ Prayer	
Summary	
Cake:	Pentecost is the birthday of the church with relighting candles
Final songs:	<u>Song(s) sending people out to serve</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Using 1 Peter 2:9

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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## Before the Service:

You may wish to decorate the church with red, yellow and orange balloons, or cardboard “tongues of fire” strung above people’s heads. You could also invite people to come to the service wearing something red or orange.

## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the Pentecost service and explain that this is the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first followers of Jesus.

## Opening Praise:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together,
- or the following responsive prayer

Come Holy Spirit,  
to help us worship and glorify Jesus.

Come Holy Spirit,  
to guide us into all truth.

Come Holy Spirit,  
to help us pray.

Come Holy Spirit,  
to set our hearts on fire with love again.

Come Holy Spirit,  
to send us out to share the good news of Jesus.

Come Holy Spirit,  
to fill us once again.

Come Holy Spirit,  
**Come Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Opening Songs:

Song(s) praising Jesus as per Appendix 1

## Warm up:

The purpose of the “warm-up” is to “set the scene” for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; reminding the congregation that the disciples had to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. You may say something like:

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<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603  
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Waiting.....

- All through our lives we find that we have to wait for different things to happen don't we?

Each day we may have to wait for a bus or train to come,

- or for a member of our family to finish using the bathroom.

We may have to wait for an appointment with a doctor or dentist,

- or for a special letter to arrive in the post.

What other things can you think of that we have to wait for? *(Receive responses from the congregation eg school bell at the end of the day, paycheque, Christmas, birthday, a friend arriving, a gift etc)*

Most of us don't find waiting easy do we?

- We tend to like things to happen when we want them to and waiting can be really hard, especially if what we are waiting for is life-changing.

After Jesus had been raised from the dead, He spent time with his disciples and on one occasion He **promised** his disciples a very special gift, but they had to wait for it.

- Listen carefully and see if you can spot what they had to wait for as we have our 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

## Reading 1:

The reading is Acts 1:4-5,8 and can be read by a child, young person or adult from a modern version of the Bible

## Link:

So who can tell me what the disciples had to wait for? *(Receive responses)*

- The disciples had to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit

Jesus didn't tell His disciples when they would be given this very special gift.

- He simply told them to wait,
- and that is exactly what the disciples did.

After they had seen Jesus taken back up into heaven the disciples went back to Jerusalem where they spent time together praying as they waited.

- On the 1<sup>st</sup> day after Jesus had gone nothing happened.
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day nothing happened.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day still nothing happened but the disciples waited and prayed.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> day nothing happened.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> days still nothing happened but the disciples carried on waiting and praying.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup> day nothing happened.
- And then the 10<sup>th</sup> day came and this is what happened.

## Drama:

The drama can be found in Appendix 2 and is a dramatized version of Acts 2:1-21. When the drama has ended move straight into a time of celebratory sung worship.

## Song:

Songs inviting the presence of the Holy Spirit as per Appendix 1. You could give the children streamers made from pieces of dowel with red, orange and yellow ribbon attached at the end, so that they can wave them during the songs.

## Talk 1:

This talk would benefit from Power Point slides of the main points with relevant pictures and words. You will also need the following props which sit on a table.

- A toaster (with the flex and plug hanging down where it can't be seen),
- A couple of slices of bread,
- A mobile phone that has no battery life,
- A mobile phone battery charger (that is plugged in under the table)
- An electric lamp (with the flex and plug hanging down where it can't be seen)

Under the table place an extension lead where the toaster, mobile phone charger and lamp can be plugged in.

Jesus kept His **promise** to His disciples didn't He?

- We have just heard how they received the special gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost ten days after Jesus had returned to heaven to live with His father again.

But what does this mean?

- Why did Jesus send the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples?

The 1<sup>st</sup> reason is that the disciples needed **the power of God** to be able to follow Jesus, and to carry on Jesus' work of changing the world.

- Before Jesus went back to heaven He had said this to His disciples:
- *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

Jesus knew when He gave the disciples this mission that they would need **the power of God**.

So thinking about power, on my table here I have a toaster, a mobile phone, and a lamp.

- Who is hungry this morning and would like a piece of toast? *(Receive responses)*
- Let's put some bread in my toaster and you will soon have some toast. *(Put bread into the toaster)*

While we wait for the toast to cook, I'll just make a quick phone call to my dad if you don't mind, as I haven't spoken with him for a while. *(Pick up phone and try to ring.....but then put the phone down)*

- Oh dear my phone doesn't seem to be working.

Never mind let's check the toast and see how it is coming along.

- Hmm, nothing is happening.....there must be something wrong with my toaster.
- Let's put on my lamp so that I see what is wrong. *(Try to switch on the lamp)*
- Oh dear, that doesn't seem to be working either.

I seem to have a problem with my toaster, phone and lamp.

- None of them are able to do what they were made to do.
- Can anyone tell me why? (*Receive responses*)

The reason my toaster, phone and lamp aren't working is that they don't have power.....so let's plug them all in. (*plug everything in and switch on*)

Now my toaster has power it can toast bread, which is what it was made to do.

- Now my phone has power I can use it to speak with people, which is what it was made to do.
- Now my lamp has power it can give light, which is what it was made to do.

Like the toaster, phone and lamp, the disciples needed **power**;

- not electrical power, but God-given power.

The disciples couldn't change the world in their own power.

- They needed God's power living inside them, which is why Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until He sent them what they needed.

On the day of Pentecost Jesus sent the gift of the powerful Holy Spirit.

- The disciples were changed people.

They now had the courage to be Jesus' witnesses;

- to share the message that God loved people, wanted to forgive them their sins and give them new life.

After Peter spoke to the crowd that gathered, 3000 people turned to Jesus.

- That was one powerful sermon!
- 3000 people's lives were changed, and the church was born.
- From that day on the church grew and grew.

All through the book of Acts you can read the stories of the incredible and powerful ways that God used the first disciples.

Over 2000 years later, we too, like the disciples, need the powerful Holy Spirit to fill us so that we can follow Jesus and carry on the work of the Kingdom of God, changing the world.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can really **love** other people and love can really change lives....

- a bit like the toaster needs power to change bread into toast (*Hold up toaster*)

We need the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can **tell** other people about Jesus and what He has done for us and for them; helping people reconnect with their Heavenly Father,

- a bit like the telephone needs power to connect people. (*Hold up mobile phone*)

We need the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can live **holy lives**; shining as lights of kindness in this dark world, as we follow Jesus.

- a bit like the lamp needs power to shine (*Hold up lamp*)

The promise of the Holy Spirit was not simply given to Jesus' first disciples.

- The promise of the Holy Spirit was given to us as well.

Do you know how much you need the power of the Holy Spirit?

- Watch this:

### Project pictures:

Project some pictures of some of the things that need changing in today's world eg pictures of polluted oceans and land, pictures of fighting, starvation, loneliness, sadness, sickness, and so on. As you show these pictures play the song, "For the sake of the world."<sup>2</sup> At the end of this say something like:

Jesus has told us to go into this world and change it one person at a time with His message of love and forgiveness.

- Let's keep asking Him to fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can do that.

### Interview:

If possible, interview a couple of people (children, young people or adults), asking them about their experience of God giving them the "power" to follow Jesus, love other people, tell other people about Jesus, bring healing to someone or some other testimony. Bring out in the interviews that in their own strength these people could not have done what they have shared, but with God's power living within them, they have been able to do what God asked them to do.

### Song:

Song about the power of the Holy Spirit as per Appendix 1

### Talk 2:

This talk would benefit from Power Point slides of the main points with relevant pictures and words.

We have said that like the disciples we need **the power of God** to be able to follow Jesus, and carry on Jesus' work of changing the world.

The Holy Spirit was also given to the disciples to be **the presence of God** with them.

When Jesus told His disciples that they were to go into the world to continue His life-changing work He also made another **promise** to them:

- *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus promised His disciples and He has promised us that He will always be with us.

- He will never leave us alone.

When the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, in some amazing way, the spirit of God came to live inside the disciples,

- and today He comes to live inside followers of Jesus.

When the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, not only does He give us the power we need to follow Jesus but He also:

- Guides and helps us.
- He comforts us when we are sad.

<sup>2</sup> The song "For the sake of the world" can be found on You Tube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) by putting, "For the sake of the world burn like a fire in me" into the search bar.

He reminds us of Jesus' words.

- He reassures us that we are God's children.

So how do you and I receive this precious gift of the Holy Spirit today,

- who is the **power** and the **presence** of God?

We simply need to turn to Jesus and admit that we have lived life our own way,

- believe that He died and rose again so that we might be forgiven,
- and invite Him to reign as our Lord and Saviour.

When we have done that Jesus promises to fill us with His Holy Spirit so that we have both the **power** to follow Him,

- and the **presence** of God with us at all times.
- Let's pray

### Prayer:

You can find the commitment prayer in Appendix 3 with the symbols to go alongside it. You could hand this prayer out to people so they have it to take home with them. When the congregation have finished praying the prayer together, ask God to come and fill people with His Holy Spirit.....leading into the next song.

### Song:

Song inviting the Holy Spirit to come and fill people as per Appendix 1

### Prayers:

The prayers could be very simple asking the Holy Spirit to show members of the congregation where God wants to use them to bring about change:

- In their families,
- In their schools/places of work
- In their country
- In the world

Finish by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

### Summary:

Summarize the main points of the service by saying something like:

Today on this Pentecost Sunday we have heard how the Holy Spirit was poured out on the first followers of Jesus, after they had waited for 10 days in Jerusalem.

- 1) The Holy Spirit came as Jesus **Promised**,
- 2) The Holy Spirit came to equip followers of Jesus with **Power** to live for Him and to be His witnesses and
- 3) The Holy Spirit came to bring the **Presence** of God to be with them always.
- 4) The same Holy Spirit comes to fill those of us who follow Jesus today; bringing the **Power** and the **Presence of God** to us.

### Cake:

You need a large cake that can be cut up at the end of the service and shared with the congregation. On top of the cake place some relighting candles<sup>3</sup>. Say something like:

<sup>3</sup> You can buy relighting candles online at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
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Sometimes Pentecost is called the birthday of the church because this was when the followers of Jesus began their God-given mission of telling the world about Jesus.

- So we have a birthday cake to share after the service.

The candles on top of the cake represent us.

- As we have asked the Holy Spirit to come and fill us, so I am going to light these candles (*Light candles*)
- Unlike a normal candle that can be blown out, these candles won't blow out because the Holy Spirit is given as a gift for all Christians for ever.
- Let's stand and sing our final song(s)

### **Final Songs:**

Songs sending people out to serve as per Appendix 1.

### **Blessing:**

*"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light,"* (1Peter 2:9)

So, go in the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus and be His witnesses, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

### i) Song(s) praising Jesus. Ideas include:

- Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty (Nathan Fellingham © 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Lord I lift your name on high (Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)
- Love the Lord with all your heart (Nick and Becky Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeve & Ed Cash © 2004 Sixsteps Music)
- Water you turned into wine (Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin & Jesse Reeves © 2010 Thankyou Music)

### ii) Songs inviting the presence of the Holy Spirit. Ideas include:

- Come down O Love divine (Bianco da Siena, Richard Frederick Littledale)
- Come Holy Spirit (Loralee Thiessen © 1993 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Holy Spirit we welcome you (Chris Bowater © 1986 Sovereign Lifestyle Music)
- There's nothing worth more (Bryan & Katie Torwalt © 2011 Capitol CMG Genesis Jesus Culture Music)

### iii) A song about the power of the Holy Spirit. Ideas include:

- For I'm building a people of power (Dave Richards © 1977 Thankyou Music)
- He is the Lord and He reigns on high (Kevin Prosch © 1991 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- O God of burning, cleansing flame (Lex Loizides, William Booth © 1994 Thankyou Music)
- There must be more than this (Tim Hughes © 2002 Thankyou Music)
- When the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Christine Jackson, Jenny Oliver © 1987, 1991 Powerpack)

### iv) Song(s) inviting the Holy Spirit to come and fill people. Ideas include:

- Breathe on me Spirit of Jesus (Tina Pownall Kent © 1987 Sovereign Music UK)
- Fall afresh (Jeremy Riddle © 2011 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Holy Spirit, living breath of God (Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Please fill me Lord with your power (Alan Price © 1990 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Spirit break out Ben Bryant, Luke Hellebronth, Myles Dhillon, Tim Hughes © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- Spirit of the living God (David Iverson © 1935 Birdwing Music)
- This is the air I breathe (Marie Barnett © 1995 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- You have called us chosen (Andy Park © 1991 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)

### v) Song(s) sending people out to serve. Ideas include:

- Come set your rule and reign (Rend Collective © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Great is the darkness (Gerald Coates & Noel Richards © 1992 Thankyou Music)
- Hear the call of the Kingdom (Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend © 2006 Thankyou Music)
- I'm not backing down (Tim Hughes © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- Lord the light of your love is shining (Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music)
- Shine from the inside out (Nick Jackson © 2007 Powerpack)
- We'll walk the land (Graham Kendrick © 1989 Make Way Music)
- We want to see Jesus lifted high (Doug Horley © 1993 Thankyou Music)

## Appendix 2 – Dramatized Acts 2:1-21 (Message Version of the Bible)

- Cast:** Peter, James, John, Philip, Andrew, “fire” person dressed in red, Person 1, Person 2 and Person 3 who sit in the congregation in different parts of the church.
- Props:** A large streamer (for the “fire” person) made from a length of dowel with long pieces of red, yellow and orange ribbon attached to the end of it.
- Sound effects:** Gale force wind sound effect<sup>4</sup>
- .....

**Narrator:** When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. *(Enter the 5 disciples who sit at the front in a circle praying).*

Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force *(Play gale force wind sound effect)* – no one could tell where it came from. *(Disciples stand up in the circle and look around them bewildered)* It filled the whole building.

Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks. *(Enter “fire” person who runs amongst the 6 disciples waving the streamer over them before running off again)*

The disciples started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

**Peter:** Praise God....*(Puts hands up and keeps speaking these words)*

**James:** Dieu est bon....*(Puts hands up and keeps speaking these words)*

**John:** Laudem Dei....*(Puts hands up and keeps speaking these words)*

**Philip:** Gott ist gut....*(Puts hands up and keeps speaking these words)*

*(Peter, James, John and Philip stop speaking)*

**Narrator:** There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying:

**Person 1:** *(Stands up from where they are seated in the congregation and shouts out:)*  
“Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?”

<sup>4</sup> You can find a gale force wind sound effect on YouTube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) by putting into the search bar: “gale force wind sound effect”

- Person 2: *(Stands up from where they are seated in the congregation and shouts out:)*  
Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!
- Person 1: *(Stands up from where they are seated in the congregation and shouts out:)*  
They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!
- Narrator: Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused:
- Person 2: *(Stands up from where they are seated in the congregation and shouts out:)*  
"What's going on here?"
- Person 3: They're drunk on cheap wine.
- Peter: *(Steps forward and addresses the congregation. He could speak from a "lectern" or "pulpit" with his words in front of him.)*  
Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:  
  
"In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams.  
When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy.  
I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billowing smoke,  
the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,  
before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvellous;  
and whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved."

*(Exit all)*

## Appendix 3 – Prayer of Commitment to Jesus

Lord Jesus Christ,

I come to You as Saviour, asking You to forgive me for all the wrong things I have thought, said and done in my life.

I choose to turn away from everything that I know is wrong .



I believe that You died on the cross for me, so that I can be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that You offer me the gift of eternal life. I now receive that gift.



Please come and fill me with Your Holy Spirit and make it possible for me to walk by faith with You, my Lord and my God.

Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.