



Liturgy: Gathering in community



for the 2022 Pentecost Offering

Call to Worship

One: On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were all together in one place.

All: Today the Holy Spirit's power has breathed life into this place where we are gathered.

One: It has brought us from _____ to the east and _____ to the west

All: from _____ to the north and _____ to the south.*

One: We gather together on land once cared for by the _____ peoples**

All: for whose faithful care of the earth, we give You thanks.

One: By your grace, O God, we are gathered here

All: in this place, all together. Come, Holy Spirit, send your power anew today.

*Fill in names of locations (towns, corners, neighborhoods) in each direction from which persons come to worship in your congregation.

**Fill in with the names of the indigenous peoples who previously lived on the land where your place of worship is located, found at <https://native-land.ca>

Prayer of Invocation

God of Pentecost power; God of surprises and disturbances; God of wind and flames;

God of all cultures, languages, and nations; you have brought us together in your presence.

Your Spirit has moved us along from the pain of Christ's death to the glory of his resurrection through his ascending to glory to the coming of the Spirit. We are in awe of your power that has gathered us all together.

Open our eyes to see where your Spirit is dancing. Open our ears to hear the varied sounds of your Spirit's noisy stirrings. Open our hearts to welcome the ways you will disturb and delight us for the sake of all whom you've created in this place and in this world. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

Suggested hymns and songs

“What is this place” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #1

“O Holy Spirit, making whole” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #300

“Joys are flowing like a river” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #301

“In Christ there is no east or west” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #306

“For everyone born” – Words by Shirley Erena Murray. Music by Lori True.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYQus85djK8> Available for purchase at:

<https://www.morningstarmusic.com/for-everyone-born-50-5011.html>

“Sing a new world into being” – Mennonite hymnal, Voices Together #809

Words by Mary Louise Bringle, 2006 GIA Publications. Tune by Ludwig von Beethoven.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcLriNam9I8> Available for purchase at:

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/sing-a-new-world-into-being-pdf-d686153>

Offering Invitation

The season of Pentecost is an opportune time to give thanks for God’s diverse abundance. The work of the Spirit is revealed in the rich variety of persons drawn to our congregations. Each person brings a unique story, welcomed gifts, new experiences, deep needs, and vast potential. Being “all together” can certainly be messy and difficult. It can also be exhilarating and joyful. The Pentecost community is one that gives thanks for this diversity. It cultivates and expands all persons’ gifts, shares its abundance with the neighborhood, plants seeds and tends them faithfully, and gives away its life for the sake of God’s dreams being realized in the world.

Our partnership in the faithful stewardship of all that God has given us enables new faith communities to be planted and existing ones revitalized. We can join with other congregations across the denomination in supporting the calling, training, and sustaining of ministers. We can do our part to welcome and nurture youth and young adults as they lead the church today. Our gifts help to fulfill the biblical mandate to be “separate no more,” breaking down barriers of class, race, language, and culture. Let us boldly, generously, and courageously allow our lives to become transformed so that God is pleased to dwell among us, all together in this place.

Prayer of dedication for the offering

Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, we thank you for this community of kindred hearts gathered here in this place. For new faces and familiar ones. For gifts we can see, and others hidden within welcomed newcomers. We thank you for the Church of the Brethren at work beyond our walls laboring in other communities and stretching across continents into the global Brethren family. May our gifts join with your Spirit as you draw the circle wide to embrace all who seek to follow Jesus, the One whose saving love overflows in generosity for the whole wide world. Amen.

Benediction

Go forth to follow the Spirit who makes room for all who seek to follow Jesus and pause at the foot of the cross, gaze into the emptiness of the tomb, and feast lavishly together at Jesus' welcoming table. Be ready to be moved about, all together, here and there and every place that the Spirit sends you. Go on now, get going!