

Parity Pentecost Liturgy*

Opening: The space is dimly lit with a single candle already lit in front on a table with a somber cloth over it. Have 12 people seated behind or around the table or in a circle in the middle aisle with a pedestal candle, All are dressed in somber colors in positions of worry, prayer or dismay. Ushers ask the congregation to cluster close to the table/group--either in the round or in nearby pews. Closeby the 12, have 5-6 foot of bright red, yellow, orange cloth with a hole cut for one's head so it can be put on easily as a colorful drape on each person. Hide them with another cloth or just fold them so they are not very noticeable. Also have narrower strips of colorful clothes for all the members of the congregation.

Call to Worship

ONE: We don't know what to do! Many have seen Jesus alive again.
But we all saw him die in agony on the cross.

ALL: We will sit together in our doubts and fears. Maybe it is all a huge mistake.

ONE: The Romans are hunting us down. They want to kill us and kill any shred of hope left among those of us who follow Jesus

ONE: Let us sit together and remember. He told us to wait for him together so here we are.

ALL: We are here. We wait. We might as well sing.

Song: WE WAIT FOR YOU* (Tune: Gift of Love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V88hA4_fYRo)

O Love divine that stooped to share, our sharpest pang, our bitterest tear;
You lived with us, taught us to care; with you close by we conquered our fear.

Now doors are locked and we still dread, we grieve our loss of all we held dear;
We saw you hang, left you for dead, but some now say you are still here.

We wait for you in this small room, we hope for power, we hope it's true
Will you come back, will it be soon? Or are we fools for waiting for you?

Scripture: Act 1: 3-5, Acts 2:1-13, 42-47 and Exodus 34: 27-32

Sermon: Waiting for Queer Power

According to Acts, Jesus appeared to the disciples off and on for 40 days. Pentecost was originally the celebration of Moses spending 40 days on the mountain talking to God and receiving the 10 commandments. Moses came down from the mountain with a queer glow. The disciples were not yet glowing but the wind and fire were on their way. First the wind

rocked the house and the whole neighborhood came running. Next, flames divided and lit on each head. They each began to preach in different languages but with one message. They were divided and united. They were unique yet equals in announcing the good news that all are one and all are saved by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. There was no need for self-righteousness, exploitation or discrimination. Like the disciples, we are one in all our glorious diversity. Like them, we have received power but it is the queer power of mercy and love, not dominance and condemnation.

[As the song begins with energy, the 12 at the table get up and drape the colorful clothes over their heads, they uncover the table to reveal a color burst draped table cloth, and begin to give out strips of colorful cloths that people can wave or drape across their shoulders.]

Hymn: THE FIRE OF PENTECOST*

Tune: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ip7aCITYI7U>

REFRAIN: The fire of Pentecost unites all the nations,
 Burning the fear away throughout generations.

All of his followers were gathered together
Waiting and wondering if all of this mattered. REFRAIN

Wind rocked the house so hard that people came running;
Fire touched their heads and then they started proclaiming. REFRAIN

Are they just drunk but no, they have not been drinking;
They speak in every tongue and we hear them speaking. REFRAIN

What is this fire within us, why does it drive us?
It is the promised Spirit come to revive us! REFRAIN

Glitter Celebration!

Pass small cups of glitter with oil in the congregation and place the glitter+fire on your neighbor with the words, “God has made you unique and we are one” or “Receive the power of love and celebrate!” or “No one can separate you from the love of God!”

Fill balloons with glitter. Have the children hand out balloons to all the church members to hold until the service concludes. All who can, join the children outside to pop the balloons in a shower of glitter.

Hymn: OH FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING* (Adapted from Charles Wesley)

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
Our great Uniter's praise,
The universe with praises ring,
To celebrate God's grace!

Jesus! Who told us "Do not fear!
Who bids our sorrows cease—
'Tis music in the sinner's ear,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

God speaks, and, list'ning to that voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

The Spirit comes with wind and fire
To move us all to teach
God's love and justice, we won't tire
With a message of God's peace.

My gracious savior and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of each name.

Give praise you saint, while you have breath
Give praise you angels, too
Trees clap your hands, seas plumb your depth
Every earthling praises You!

Blessing:

ONE: We waited and the Holy Spirit came upon us like glitter+fire!

ALL: We waited and we are not disappointed. We have a fire in our belly to tell the world it will be okay. We are forgiven and empowered to love. We are empowered to be humble.

ONE: Go forth, even if they say you are drunk. Know that the Holy Spirit is joy, peace, generosity and love. Against these fruits of the Spirit, there is no law.

ALL: We go forth clapping our hands, popping balloons, and complaining about glitter that will show up in the most unexpected places for a long time! Just like the Holy Spirit!

ONE: May the wind of the Spirit and the fire of all that is Holy energize you for the living of this hour. Glve us wisdom, give us courage, give us love.

ALL: AMEN!

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