

Joint Liturgical Group  
of Great Britain

*the fire  
of love*

**Two Celebrations  
for Pentecost**

*Anointing with Prayer for Renewal  
Bearing the Light of the Gospel*

## Notes

*As an alternative to using one of the local churches this celebration may be held in a concert hall or a public meeting place.*

*An Orthodox Icon of the Spirit's descent on the Twelve Apostles may be present or projected and prominence may be given to the sign of the Dove. The new life which the Spirit brings can be indicated by an abundance of greenery and flowers.*

*A large candle, which may be the Paschal Candle, stands in a prominent place and is lit before the service begins.*

*Prior to the Greeting a group may sing such items of praise as the Taize chant 'Veni, sancte Spiritus'.*

### Introduction

- Greeting and Sharing of the Peace
- Blessing of Light
- Hymn
- Introduction

### A Sequence of Readings

- Readings
- Hymn
- Intercession for Pentecost

### Conclusion: Option One — **Anointing with Prayer for Renewal**

- Hymn
- A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Renewal over the Oil
- The Blessing and Dismissal
- Sending Out
- Hymn

### Conclusion: Option Two — **Bearing the Light of the Gospel**

- Lighting of Candles
- Hymn
- Act of Commitment
- Procession
- The Blessing and Dismissal
- Sending Out
- Hymn

# Introduction

## Greeting and Sharing of the Peace

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Today is the birthday of the church.

**Alleluia.**

Today the gospel of Christ is proclaimed to all nations.

**Alleluia.**

Today the Spirit's fire is kindled on the earth  
and the breath of God renews the life of all creation.

**Alleluia.**

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

**Alleluia.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.*

## Blessing of Light

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Your Spirit swept over the face of the waters  
to bring light and life to all creation.  
In fulfilment of the promise of our ascending Saviour  
your people are clothed with power from on high.  
Inspired by the same Spirit your disciples are bold  
to announce the good news of salvation.  
Crowned with the riches of your grace,  
may we, the first fruits of your new creation,  
bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,  
and reveal your glory in all the world.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## Hymn

*The following or some other hymn or song celebrating or invoking the descent of the Holy Spirit.*

Come down, O Love divine,  
Seek thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O comforter, draw near,  
Within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
Till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
And let thy glorious light  
Shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
Mine outward vesture be,  
And lowliness becomes mine inner clothing;  
True lowliness of heart,  
Which takes the humbler part,  
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
With which the soul will long,  
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace,  
Till he become the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Discendi, amor santo Bianco da Siena (died 1434)  
translated Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)*

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- *Come, Holy Spirit, come!* — Michael Forster
  - *Holy Spirit, come, confirm us* — Brian Foley
  - *or some other hymn or song celebrating or invoking the descent of the Holy Spirit*
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## Introduction

*The leader uses these or similar words.*

Sisters and brothers, on this fiftieth day of the Easter victory, we meet in our Father's presence to celebrate the glory of Pentecost.

In the words of Scripture let us hear again the good news of life created and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Let us offer our Pentecost thanksgiving to God in our hymns and songs and psalms of praise.

Let us rejoice that the Holy Spirit empowers the Church to fulfil the mission which the risen Christ has entrusted to it.

As the Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh let us pray for world over which Christ reigns, for the church on which Christ breathes the Holy Spirit and for the unity and mission of all who profess One Lord, One Faith and One Baptism.

Let us pray for all who need the peace of the suffering and glorified Christ, in their sickness, in anxiety or loneliness, in their darkness or grief.

Let us remember all those we love, all who have asked for our prayers and let us commend to God all who have died in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

Let us offer our Whitsuntide prayer and praise to God our Father:

In the words that Christ has given us:

**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 us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour taught his disciples:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## A Sequence of Readings

A sequence of Bible readings is selected and interspersed with appropriate hymns, chants and anthems and some periods of reflective silence.

The passage from Acts 2.1-11 (Reading 6) should always be included.

When possible, each reading is read by a different person.

The readings may be read without announcement or conclusion.

### Reading 1

Genesis 11.1-9

**A reading from the book of Genesis** — *Human Pride and the Loss of Common Understanding*

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

### Reading 2

Exodus 19:3-8, 16-20

**A reading from the book of Exodus** — *The Giving of the Law at Sinai*

The LORD called to Moses out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

## Reading 3

Ezekiel 37:1-14

### A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

— *The Spirit of the LORD brings life and breath to the people*

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O LORD God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

## Reading 4

Joel 3:1-5

### A reading from the Prophet Joel — *The Outpouring of God's Spirit*

"In the last days, says God,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your young men shall see visions  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even on the male and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

## Reading 5

John 7:37-39; 8:12

### **A reading from the Gospel of John** — *The Living Water of the Spirit*

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”’ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’

## Reading 6

Acts 2.1-11

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** — *The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost*

*If this passage is available in English for all to see, then the narrative of the Day of Pentecost may be read in short sections by several readers in their own native tongue*

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem devout Jews, from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

## Reading 7

Acts 2.12- 21

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** — *Peter’s Sermon on the Day of Pentecost*

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;  
even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.  
And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke;

the sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the day of the LORD comes, the great and magnificent day.  
And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.'

## Reading 8

Romans 8:22-27

### **A reading from the letter to the Romans** — *The First-Fruits of the Spirit*

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

## Reading 9

Galatians 5:22-23

### **A reading from the letter to the Galatians** — *The Fruit of the Spirit*

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

## Reading 10

Revelation 21:1-5

### **A reading from the book of Revelation** — *The Divine Indwelling*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

## Hymn

*This or another suitable hymn.*

O Thou who camest from above  
The pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return,  
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
To work, and speak, and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire,  
And still stir up thy gift in me-

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat,  
Till death thy endless mercies seal,  
And make the sacrifice complete.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## Intercession for Pentecost

Let us pray that God will fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God,  
we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.  
Father in the name of Jesus.

**Send the Holy Spirit.**

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.  
Father in the name of Jesus.

**Send the Holy Spirit.**

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.  
Father in the name of Jesus.

**Send the Holy Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness  
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.  
Father in the name of Jesus.

**Send the Holy Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.  
Father in the name of Jesus.

**Send the Holy Spirit.**

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.  
Father in the name of Jesus.

**Send the Holy Spirit.**

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit,  
given us by the risen Lord.  
We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,  
in the joy of eternal life.

Father in the name of Jesus.

**Send the Holy Spirit.**

Generous God,  
you poured out your Holy Spirit on your beloved Son at the river Jordan,  
and upon the disciples at Pentecost:  
in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,  
hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.

**Amen.**

## Option One

### *Anointing with Prayer for Renewal*

#### Hymn

*One of the following or another hymn*

Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire;  
thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessèd unction from above  
is comfort, life, and fire of love;  
enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face  
with the abundance of thy grace:  
keep far our foes, give peace at home;  
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of both to be but One;  
that through the ages all along  
this may be our endless song,

‘Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.’

*Veni, creator Spiritus attributed to Rabanus Maurus (c776-856), John Cosin (1594-1672)*

- 
- *Creator Spirit, Lord of grace (Veni, creator Spiritus)* — tr. James Quinn
  - *or another hymn*
- 

#### **A Prayer for Renewal and Thanksgiving**

*Oil that is to be used for the anointing is brought forward.*

*A Prayer for Renewal and Thanksgiving is said over the oil.*

Gracious God, giver of life and salvation,  
by the power of your Spirit,  
may your blessing rest upon those anointed with this oil in your name.

Let it be for them  
a sign of your acceptance and adoption,  
your equipping and empowering.

Form in them the likeness of Christ,  
that they may be witnesses of your grace,  
and rejoice in your gift of life in all its fullness.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Those who wish come forward and are anointed on the forehead or on their open hands.*

*Appropriate hymns and songs may be used.*

## The Blessing and Dismissal

*Silence*

Let us pray.

Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the Easter promise  
by sending your Holy Spirit  
and opening the way of life eternal:  
to every race and nation.  
Keep us in the unity of your Spirit  
that every tongue may tell of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who swept over the waters of creation,  
breathe into you newness of life.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who overshadowed the Virgin Mary when the Word was made flesh  
form the life of Christ within you.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who kindled the fire of love in the hearts of the disciples  
fill the whole world with God's light and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing...

## The Sending Out

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## Hymn

*One of the following or another suitable hymn*

- 
- *We have a gospel to proclaim* — Edward J Burns
  - *Lord, the light of your love is shining* — Graham Kendrick
-

## Option Two

### *Bearing the Light of the Gospel*

#### Lighting of Candles

*Candles will have been provided for all.*

*Those who are to be the first bearers of the light to be shared throughout the assembly go to the central or Paschal Candle.*

*The first person to take light from the central or Paschal Candle says:*

With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.  
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.  
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation the way of light is made known.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### Hymn

*As the candles of the congregation are lit this or some other version of the ancient hymn Phos hilaron may be sung or another suitable hymn.*

- 
- *Light of gladness, Lord of glory — Christopher Idle*
  - *or some other version of the ancient hymn Phos hilaron may be sung*
  - *or another suitable hymn.*
- 

#### Act of Commitment

*When all the candles are lit the following is said.*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.  
Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
will you trust God to be your guide?

**We will.**

Will you love all your sisters and brothers in Christ?

**We will.**

Will you share your resources with all in need?

**We will.**

Will you work and pray for justice near at hand and far away?

**We will.**

Will you carry the light of Christ in both word and deed?

**We will.**

## Procession

*Weather permitting, the assembly processes out of the building, or to the back of the building facing the open doors*

*This or some other hymn*

O breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your Church with life and power;  
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your Church to meet this hour.

O wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore, for this we plead.

O breath of love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart:  
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your Church in every part.

Revive us, Lord! No zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white.  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,  
equip your Church to spread the light.

*Elizabeth Ann Head (1850-1936)*

## The Blessing and Dismissal

*Silence*

Let us pray.

Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the Easter promise  
by sending your Holy Spirit  
and opening the way of life eternal:  
to every race and nation.  
Keep us in the unity of your Spirit  
that every tongue may tell of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who swept over the waters of creation,  
breathe into you newness of life.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who overshadowed the Virgin Mary when the Word was made flesh  
form the life of Christ within you.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who kindled the fire love in the hearts of the disciples  
fill the whole world with God's light and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing ...

## **The Sending Out**

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **Hymn**

*One of the following or another suitable hymn*

- 
- *We have a gospel to proclaim* — Edward J Burns
  - *Lord, the light of your love is shining* — Graham Kendrick
-

# Appendix

## Suggested hymns for use at appropriate points in the celebration

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- *All over the world*
  - *Be still, for the presence of the Lord*
  - *Breathe on me, Breath of God*
  - *Filled with the Holy Spirit's power*
  - *Like fireworks in the night*
  - *O Day of joy and wonder*
  - *Praise the Spirit in creation (87 87 87)*
  - *Spirit of the living God (Iverson)*
  - *The Spirit lives to set us free*
  - *Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire (Wesley – St Columba)*
  - *Holy Spirit, ever living (Timothy Rees – Abbot's Leigh)*
  - *Great and deep the Spirit's purpose (Marnie Barrell - 87 87 D)*
  - *Holy Spirit, gift bestower*
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## **Acknowledgements**

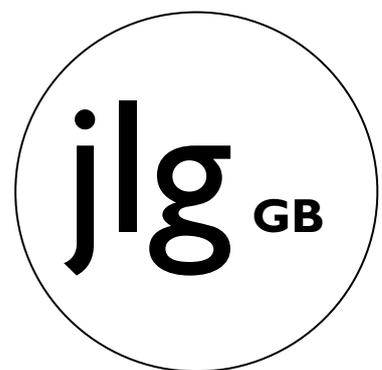
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Blessing [pg. 13 & 15] from *Book of Alternative Services*, Anglican Church of Canada, 1985.

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