



PENTECOST

5 JUNE 2022

The primary problem is that our identities are too small. We tend to rely most on our smaller, cultural identities and ignore our larger, common identity as members of the body of Christ. Indeed, adopting a common identity is the key to tearing down cultural divisions and working toward reconciliation. —*Christena Cleveland*

**Come, Holy Spirit,
The wind of God, the breath of Life.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Our Advocate, our Counsellor.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.
Come, Holy Spirit.
May we feel God breathing through our worship.
May we receive the Holy Spirit in this place.
Amen**

**Come, Holy Spirit,
descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus' name.**

**Come, Breath of Heaven,
descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus' name.**

**Come, Word of Mercy,
descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus' name.**

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Encountering the living word

A STORY ABOUT LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Acts 2:1-13 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.⁵ Now there were devout people from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

(We name the places from which we have come)

In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

*Holy Spirit mover of the waters
Holy Spirit shaper of the bays
Holy Spirit warm again this cold heart
Holy Spirit shape again this clay*

In the dark, alone on the water
Breakers falling down on me
Bird of hope – wings of survival
Keep me safe today – safe today

In the face of hate and indifference
Be the calm that strengthens me
And in the fear that knocks like a nightmare
Be my promised land – be my Jerusalem

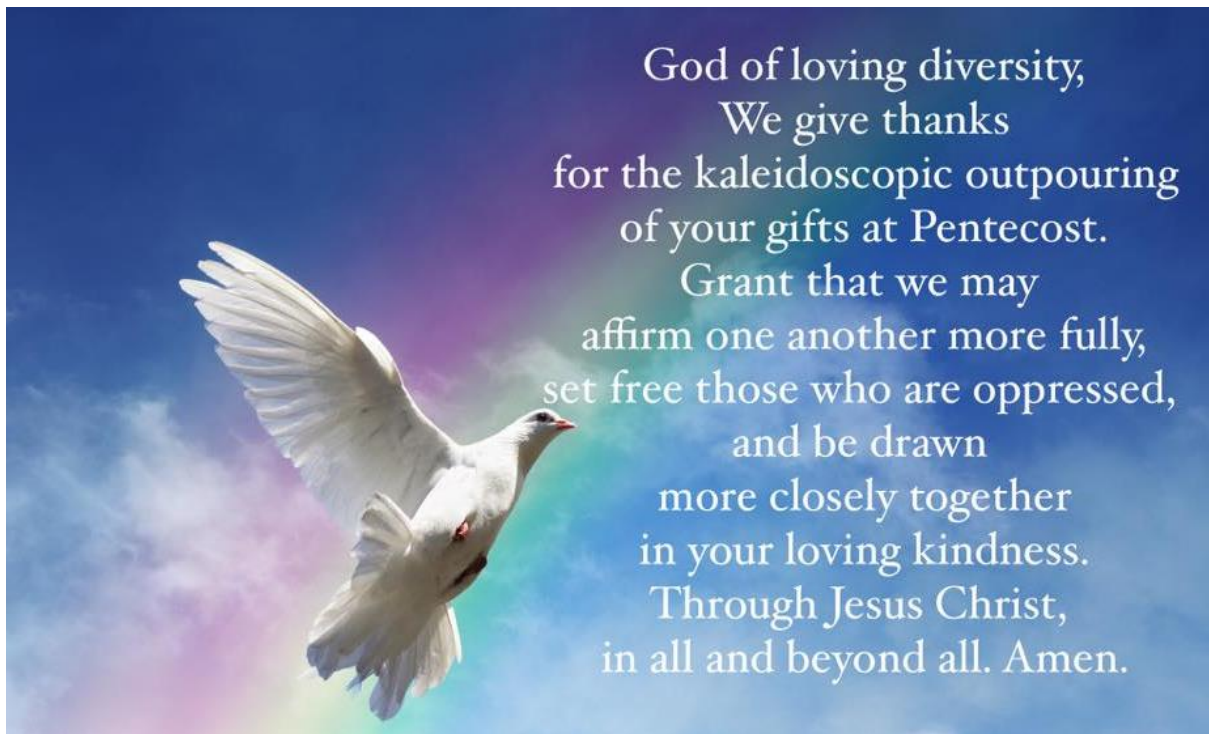
In the day of our greatest triumph
The mountain climbed and the tower raised
Be the memory be there to remind us
Of the part you played, on the way

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REFLECTION

God's major problem in liberating humanity has become apparent to me as I consider the undying recurrence of *hatred of the other*, century after century, in culture after culture and religion after religion. It seems we must have our *other*! We struggle to know who we are except by opposition and exclusion. (Richard Rohr: Unity and Diversity)

RESPONDING WITH OUR LIVES



God of loving diversity,
We give thanks
for the kaleidoscopic outpouring
of your gifts at Pentecost.
Grant that we may
affirm one another more fully,
set free those who are oppressed,
and be drawn
more closely together
in your loving kindness.
Through Jesus Christ,
in all and beyond all. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Holy God, of holy dreaming,
breathe through us,
and in your mercy hear our prayer.

Spirit of the Living God
Fall fresh on me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall fresh on me
Melt me mould me
Fill me use me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall fresh on me

Daniel Iverson

(Those who wish are invited to light a candle as a symbol of their prayer)

The Disciples' Prayer

***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 forever.
Amen.***

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.

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

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch

A BLESSING PRAYER

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of the One who made us and loves us and goes before us be upon you and all those whom you love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

