

Surf Coast Uniting Churches
 Sunday 24th May 2026
 Pentecost



Notices

Hymn 398 Come down O love divine as rose petals are thrown in the air

Come down, O Love divine,
 seek now this soul of mine,
 and visit it with your own ardour glowing;
 O Comforter, draw near,
 within my heart appear
 and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

Welcome

Thank you for Pentecost bowls made by Ro, Annette and Janice. May the worship
 bless you on this wonderful Pentecost Sunday



Acknowledgment

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung
 people, traditional custodians of this land under God.
 We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Call to Worship

Jane O Sorenson in Before the Amen 2007 © Maren C. and Maria I. Tirabassi

O most Holy God, we give you thanks that you are among us

We thank you for the gift of your creation

For the gift of friends and family

For the gift of stories

For the gifts of learning and knowledge

For the gifts of question and doubt

For the fire of enthusiasm

For the wind of reason

For all we understand, for all that remains a mystery

For your loving presence in and through it all
We give you our thanks and praise

Prayer

Susan Hodge-Parker in Before the Amen 2007 © Maren C. and Maria I. Tirabassi

Eternal spark, on this Pentecost Sunday, let us celebrate the power of your Spirit
in creation and in us.
You transform us, empower us, guide us, sustain us, and give us hope when we
thought all was lost.

We are touched by your flames and wind when we are moved to tears or
laughter by a play or a book, when we listen to music that rocks our soul, when a
friend takes our hand and shows us that love is action and not just a cozy feeling.
Clothe our spirits in red and stir our wind chimes to melody today and always.
Amen

YouTube for kids – Pentecost in 3 minutes.
Followed by birthday cake made by Margaret Hirth
and singing happy birthday to the church



Dramatized readings on PowerPoint – Stan
Acts 2:1-21 & John 7:37-39

Puppet madness

Gail (Child puppet), Ian (Grandpa) Rev Tina (The Pentecost chook)

Hymn 467 I am the church (Robyn doing actions)

I count if I am ninety
or nine or just a baby;
there's one thing I am sure about, and
I don't mean maybe:

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus all around the world,
yes, we're the church together!

Richard K. Avery 1934- and Donald S. Marsh 1923-

Sermon

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen



I wonder why people say Pentecost is the birth of the church.

In today's reading from Acts 2 we are told about the coming of the Holy Spirit, upon the apostles and disciples, as Jesus promised. It's an amazing account of God sending His Spirit, but I wonder if its only half of the story.

The disciples have been waiting in a house and praying, when suddenly a violent wind comes from heaven and fills the house. I wonder if everyone in Jerusalem saw the wind come from heaven and heard the noise. Did the walls of all the homes in Jerusalem shake, when the wind came?

We are told tongues of fire appeared amongst the disciples and rested upon their heads and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered them to speak all the languages of Jewish people gathered from all the known nations.

It must have been a violent and loud wind to attract so much attention. Perhaps everyone saw which house the wind entered, because a crowd gathered around the apostles and disciple's house. When they heard them speaking their languages, they asked a lot of questions, felt a lot of feelings and responded in different ways. Some felt perplexed, astonished and awe, while others sneered.

God has certainly got their attention.

They asked: *What does this mean?*
They are Galileans. How can they speak our languages?

Peter, once afraid, now bold, speaks to the crowd and says this is what the prophet Joel prophesied. This is God speaking to you as God speaks through prophets, dreams and visions. This is a cosmic event. Now everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord, will be saved. That is where today's gospel ends.

But there is more to the story.

Peter continues to speak to the crowd, and he doesn't beat around the bush.

He gets to the point. He speaks about Jesus and reminds the crowd they crucified him. He says God swore an oath to king David, our ancestor, that God would put His descendant on a heavenly throne and this is Jesus who God raised up, that all of you have witnessed. God has made Jesus Lord and Messiah, Jesus who you crucified. When the crowd heard what Peter said, they were cut to the heart. They asked: *What should we do?*

Peter said: *Repent and be baptised and you will receive the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and all your descendants.*

3000 people responded and were baptised. Can you imagine this?

Afterwards, the crowds of new Christians worshiped God in the temple and listened to the apostles tell them about Jesus' teachings. The new Christian community gathered in fellowship with one another, prayed and broke bread in their homes, shared all their possessions with one another and cared for the poor. They witnessed the apostles and disciples healing people. They ate their food with generous hearts, praised God and felt awe.

What a wonderful account of how Jesus' church began.

What does it mean, for us, today?

Are we called to live in the same way?



This unusual image of Pentecost shows everyone joined together as a community, by the Holy Spirit, which comes from God, who is Spirit.

We do not just receive the Holy Spirit, when we are baptised. It's not a one-off event. Throughout our lifetime we continue to receive God's Holy Spirit, which is poured into our hearts, again and again, to inspire, guide, love, and empower us for Jesus' ministry in the world. On our own we cannot do much, together we can be the face of Jesus in the world. The church depends on our response to Jesus' promised Holy Spirit and the gospel gives us an example of how the early church loved and lived.

It's up to each one of us how we respond to the gift of the Spirit.

It's up to all of us how we keep the church alive.

The Lord be with you

June plays for us

Offering – Lyn and Molly

Lord, giver of every good thing, we bring to you our lives, gifts and resources for the building up of your kingdom and church. We give thanks for blessings and transformation that come through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Pentecost Prayer – Ro

Candle prayers

June plays for meditative music for us

All age Pentecost activity

Making tongues of Fire

Hymn 675 Lord the light of your love is shining

The hymn is sung while the congregation wave around their tongues of fire.

Blessing

God be with us on our journey
 Jesus, guide us in your love
 Lord, gift us through each other.
 Renew us as your pilgrim people,
 through your Holy Spirit.

Sending out song 755 You shall go out with joy

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace,
 and the mountains and hills shall break forth in singing.
 There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field
 shall clap, shall clap their hands,
 and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
 and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
 and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
 and you'll go out with joy.

Steffi Geiser Rubin 1950- based on Isaiah 55:12