

PENTECOST



Prayer and Worship Ideas

Introduction

This significant date in the Church calendar provides an opportunity to join as a church fellowship and celebrate together, invite the Spirit into all you're doing and ask for a fresh anointing on the lives and ministries of all in your church/corps.

Below are several ideas for things that you can do with your church fellowship, within your building, outside your building and within your community. The ideas are just a starting point and might take you off in a variety of directions, but the hope is that they might spark something that could be useful for you to use in your setting this Pentecost.

Display Ideas

Light Wall

You will need:

- Fairy lights
- Battery-operated candles
- Explanation handout (see bottom of document)

The idea:

Get creative and make a wall of light within your corps building. Add words and a descriptor, and use the explanation handout provided alongside the display so that those using your building around Pentecost Sunday can see and read about this significant date. There might be someone artistic or creative in your corps who would be ideal for heading this up, or it could be a great challenge for some of the children or young people to take on.

Light Installation / Window Display

You will need:

- A suitable window or outside space for positioning a light display
- LED lights
- Fairy lights
- Flame-shaped cut-outs
- Explanation handout (see bottom of document)

The idea:

Create something that can capture the interest and attention of people who pass your building. In the same way that Christmas lights attract and communicate a message of joy, take the opportunity to set up something that will make people stop and find out more. Have something on hand ready to explain what it is you are celebrating and the significance of this for the whole Church.

Holy Spirit Celebration

You will need:

- Photos
- Stories
- Display boards and/or table

The idea:

To celebrate moments where the Holy Spirit's presence has been strongly felt and experienced at your corps. Are there photos that show an event, a certain time or a group of people? Was there a trip or occasion where those who gathered felt the Holy Spirit to be very real? Could you create a display that shows some of this and shares some of the personal testimonies from people who were involved? In your display make sure you deliberately leave space to act as a blank canvas for people to pray into how the story will continue.

Creative Prayer Ideas

Ribbon Cross

You will need:

- A wooden cross
- Small pieces of yellow, orange and red ribbon
- Three bowls to place the different coloured ribbons in
- Ribbon cross printout explanation (see bottom of this document)

The idea:

Display a wooden cross – or a large picture of a cross if a freestanding wooden cross isn't available. Encourage people to take the ribbon/s that correspond with the prayers they want to pray using the printout below as a guide. Take time to pray the prayer as they attach the ribbon to the cross.

Flame Prayers

You will need:

- Flame-shaped card in a variety of colours
- A way of displaying the flames that makes it appealing and easy for people to take
- Flame prayers printout explanation (see bottom of the document)

The idea:

Provide a large display of flame-shaped cards and encourage people to take one with them to act as a reminder and representation of the fire of the Holy Spirit upon them and within them wherever they go.

Community Prayer Walk

You will need:

- A plan in place for where you are going to go
- An option that helps make it inclusive for those that might not have the mobility to walk too far
- Living It – Prayer Walking - produced by International Headquarters can be helpful to watch for those planning the prayer walk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1URoA_DUBEw

The idea:

After the first disciples received the Holy Spirit, they were empowered to go out and share the good news of the gospel. This Pentecost, encourage people to walk around your local community, stopping to pray at key locations (schools, other churches, shops, health facilities etc) and wherever else the Spirit leads. Pray too for future opportunities to spread the word of God.

Prayer Map

You will need:

- Large map of the area
- If a large map of the area isn't available, provide a large piece of paper with the basic details of the area drawn out and encourage people to add to it using their knowledge and drawing skills
- Flame handout sheet (see bottom of document)

The idea:

Encourage people to add a flame to different areas in your community to represent the places where your church and your people are present. Are there places that need more light bringing to them?

Prayer Matters

You will need:

- Access to *Prayer Matters* online
- *Prayer Matters* bookmarks

The idea:

To help fan the flame of prayer to support mission, encourage people to engage in the daily prayer rhythms by accessing *Prayer Matters* prayers. Give out bookmarks to remind people of the prayer rhythms, and use the different means that you have available as a corps to regularly highlight and share the prayers. Some ideas for doing this could include using your social media channels, display boards, WhatsApp groups, notice boards etc.

Creative Activities and Ideas

Torch Relay

You will need:

- A torch

The idea:

On 8 May the Olympic Torch Relay began a journey to showcase France's beauty and diversity, its history and exceptional landscapes, and its knowledge, traditions and talents. Using the torch relay as inspiration and the themes that the relay is focusing on, allow some time in your worship service to pass a torch around to willing volunteers who can share something of their knowledge and experience of the Holy Spirit at work in their life. Are there moments of beauty, celebrations of diversity, knowledge gained, talents used and other experiences to celebrate?

Wind and Fire

You will need:

- A few containers of bubble mixture with a bubble wand
- Access to this video clip https://youtu.be/tKD7-JG7Yww?si=zgVbYt4_zbUoLXAf

The idea:

Use these creative illustrations within a gathered worship service or as part of an outdoor event if looking for a short message to share.

Bible reading: Acts 2: 1-4

‘When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.’

This reading from Acts contains two symbols of the Holy Spirit and his activity – the elements of wind and fire. The Greek word for spirit (*pneuma*) also means wind and breath.

Let’s explore this some more:

Wind

Look at this ordinary colourless mixture (the bubble mixture). But when we put it in the wand, add our breath to it and blow on it, it becomes something quite different and special.

Invite volunteers to come and blow some bubbles.

We can see the colours and different shapes, fragile and beautiful.

Q. What else do you notice?

A. You can’t choose which direction they go in or plan exactly what shape or size they will be.

In the story we hear how the wind blew on the disciples and made a difference. We can pray for God’s Holy Spirit to breathe his life into us, to inspire us and take us in the direction and to the places that he needs us.

Fire

We like to gather around a fire for its warmth and we also know that a fire gets people’s attention. In the Old Testament there was always a fire burning in the holy of holies in the tabernacle and the Temple, and the fire represented the presence of God.

The continuously burning, divine fire at the altar of burnt offering helped remind the Israelites of the reality of God’s presence and of their need for God.

In Bible times the only domestic light came from a flame. In John 8:12 Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world.' He meant that he was bringing the light of Heaven right into the centre of the earth's darkness. When he said, 'You are the light of the world' (Matthew 5:14), Jesus was saying that he could transform us so that we shine God's love in the world and we do this with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Play the video clip without sound and speak the following text over the top as it plays - https://youtu.be/tKD7-JG7Yww?si=zgVbYt4_zbUoLXAf

Because:

After the Holy Spirit came, the believers began to tell other people.

After the Holy Spirit came, they were bold enough to take action.

After the Holy Spirit came, they began to work together.

After the Holy Spirit came, the Church began to grow.

Just like the bubbles, the shape and direction of the flame is not contained. In the same way the power of Holy Spirit can transform our lives, so that we can live aware of God's presence and power that is with us every day. The Spirit came with power just as Jesus said, allowing them to do many things in his name, and he gave them new courage to do so – and that same Holy Spirit is available to us today.

PENTECOST



The birth of the Church and original coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a way for Christians to experience God's presence here on earth. As we celebrate the original coming to earth of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we continue to ask through prayer for the Holy Spirit to be a presence in our lives, helping to influence and impact the people that we are and all that we do.

RIBBON CROSS



Yellow ribbon – tie this ribbon to the cross as you pray for renewal and a fresh experience of the Holy Spirit.

Orange ribbon – tie this ribbon to the cross as you pray that the Holy Spirit's presence fills you and goes with you in your everyday life.

Red ribbon – tie this ribbon to the cross as you pray about the things that you need to stop or the barriers you might be putting up in your life that are preventing you from being fully filled with the Holy Spirit.

PENTECOST

FLAME PRAYERS



Take a flame with you and display it or keep it somewhere safe so that it can act as a visual reminder of what it means to have the fire of the Holy Spirit within you and upon you wherever you go.

PENTECOST



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