

Church at Home

Pentecost Sunday | May 31, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have suspended our regular Sunday worship services and are encouraging people to worship together in their homes. This resource is intended to be flexible and adaptable for a variety of settings, depending on the gifts and resources available. It is structured after our regular worship service, but you may do what works for your context. Some sections have recommendations for worshipping in families with small children.

Gathering & Greeting

<p>Call to Worship <i>(Joel 32:28-32; Acts 2:17-21)</i></p> <p>God will pour out the Spirit on all flesh, and our daughters and sons shall prophesy. Our old ones shall dream dreams, and our young ones shall see visions; and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.</p> <p>Come, let us call upon the name of the Lord!</p>	<p><i>*For families with small children*</i></p> <p>We come to worship God today, because he has invited us to worship him.</p> <p>Today we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in our hearts!</p> <p>Let's sing to him!</p> <p><i>Families may light a candle as they begin Sunday worship as a visual reminder that worship is a special time when we rest in God's presence in a special way.</i></p>
--	--

Song Suggestions:

Depending on your context and gifts, you may want to sing along with songs on YouTube, have someone lead with piano and guitar, or sing together acapella. Feel free to break open the songbook or hymnal and sing your family's favourites, or pick a few from these suggestions (check the [Church at Home page](#) for a YouTube playlist).

King of Kings
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Ten Thousand Reasons
If You But Trust in God to Guide You
I Am Not My Own

Confession & Assurance

Read Acts 2:1-21.

Prayer of Confession:

**Breath of God—
who hovered over the unformed waters,
who blows through our lives,
opening us up to new dreams, new hopes,
and new lives in Christ—**

**Forgive us when we resist
the winds of your Spirit
as it blows through our lives.**

**We cower in fear,
when you call us to stand
with steadfast courage.**

**Grant us your Holy Spirit,
that we may face the future
with complete trust
in your faithfulness,
through your Son, Jesus.**

Amen.

The prayer of confession may be followed by a time of silence, if desired.

Assurance of Pardon:

Read I Corinthians 12:1-13

Hear the good news: through the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ gives us gifts to assure us of our salvation by the forgiveness of sins, so that we may build each other up in the body of Christ! We are one body, for we are baptized into one Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

For families with small children

Read the story of Pentecost from a children's Bible or a simplified translation (like the New International Reader's Version) and talk with your children about how Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit to give us comfort and strength.

Prayer:

**Dear Jesus, you give the best gifts.
Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit,
and the spiritual gifts that the Spirit gives.
Forgive us when we don't use your gifts.
Help us always to be loving,
joyful, patient, and kind.
Amen.**

Families may talk about how in baptism the Holy Spirit pours out gifts on us so that we can know that we are saved. Jesus invites us all to use our gifts to encourage each other and build each other up.

Hearing the Word

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:1-10

Song of Preparation: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

The sermon video will be available on the church website under “Sermons” and on the Church at Home webpage. This is Pastor Carel’s final service in active ministry.

If households prefer not to watch a sermon video, read the passage together from your preferred translation or a children’s Bible. A sermon manuscript can also be found on the Church at Home webpage if people prefer to read the sermon.

Prayer of Application

Great Redeemer, who guides us throughout our lives, thank you for stories of faithfulness that witness to your greatness and your mercy. We pray that we would all be witnesses to your faithfulness, and follow the guidance of your Holy Spirit throughout our lives. Amen.

Shameless plug for a great resource



Check out Kids Corner from ReFrame Media, the English language ministry of Back to God Ministries, International. Kids Corner has audio adventures, Bible stories, and faith-forming activities for young children and families. Check it out at <https://kidscorner.reframedia.com>.



The Story of Pentecost

What was it like the day that the Holy Spirit came? God



The Story of Paul’s Conversion



The Story of Dorcas

Have you ever met anyone that reminded you of Jesus? Come

Responding to God's Word

Song of Response: He Leadeth Me

Prayers of the People:

Check the [Church at Home page](#) for a prayer from one of our elders!

<p>Given the reality that all of us are encouraged to stay at home, reflect together on what you “see” happening in this time. How has your perspective on this changed over the week? This can be a great time for parents to check-in with their kids, and to be honest with their kids about their own struggles and fears. Take a pulse of how each other are doing. What has been joy-filled about this past week? What has been challenging?</p> <p>Invite everyone to share what they would like to lift up to God, their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears.</p> <p>Review the “Church Family News” section of the bulletin on the church website.</p> <p>Close with the Lord’s Prayer.</p> <p>Check the Church at Home page for a prayer from one of our elders.</p>	<p><i>*For families with small children*</i></p> <p><i>Memorizing the Lord’s Prayer is a great way to equip your children with important worship language. If you’ve already memorized the Lord’s Prayer, start memorizing a Psalm together.</i></p> <p><i>Make Pentecost prayers: cut out tongues of fire from red, orange, and yellow construction paper. Use half of them to write the names of people who help you love God more, and thank God for them. Use the other half to write the names of people who you want to encourage, and talk about ways that you can encourage them this week.</i></p>
--	---

Offering

If you desire to give financially in this time, please check the bulletin for the most up-to-date options for giving.

Today’s second offering is for Resonate Global Mission. What is the promise of Pentecost? That you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. That same promise is for us today—but not just for us, for everyone. The disciples’ sermon being heard in every tongue is a lesson of the Holy Spirit’s power and plan for mission. Resonate Global Mission is privileged to go with you on this mission. Whether your path leads you through your own neighbourhood or to “those who are far off,” may the Spirit go with you into every area of life and equip you for God’s redeeming work. For more information and to contribute online visit resonateglobalmissions.org.

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord smile upon you, and give you peace.

Amen.

Close by singing the Doxology or an appropriate song.