

have become better understood and more accepted. The main thing is to keep stories concrete and not too dramatic, so that congregational members might feel energized to take their part rather than come away with a sense that it's too big for them or it's all been done already.

Peace candle and prayers of the people

Passing the peace

SENDING

Benediction

Speak and act boldly,
as one body united through the Holy Spirit,
so that the world might know God's loving justice.

Sending song

Pentecost New community: May 23, 2010

New heavens and a new earth;



Texts: Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Focus statement:

Not constrained by culture, race, or language, the spirit is poured out on young and old, men and women. Like those gathered in Jerusalem on Pentecost, we're astonished to find ourselves part of a new community that includes the whole of creation.

Song suggestions:

HWB 292 <i>Away with our fears</i>	STJ 34 <i>Loving Spirit</i>
HWB 289 <i>Filled with the Spirit's power</i>	STJ 35 <i>O Breath of Life</i>
HWB 26 <i>Holy Spirit, come with power</i>	STJ 62 <i>Christ's is the world</i>
HWB 29 <i>Like the murmur of the dove's song</i>	STJ 10 <i>Spirit working in creation</i>
HWB 46 <i>I sing the mighty power of God</i>	STS 3 <i>Come, light of the world</i>
HWB 34 <i>When the morning stars together</i>	STS 65 <i>Abres mis ojos</i>
HWB 349 <i>Spirit of God</i>	STS 104 <i>Come, O Spirit, come</i>
HWB 35 <i>Many and great, O God</i>	STS 103 <i>Fire of God, undying flame</i>
HWB 129 <i>Fire of God, undying flame</i>	

GATHERING

Call to Worship:

Leader: Come, Spirit of God,
People: and pour your grace into our yearning hearts.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Truth,
People: and help us see each other with compassion.
Leader: Come, Spirit of Love,
People: and bind us together into one body.
All: In you, may we become a new community. Amen.

Procession of the birds and resurrection story

Opening prayer

PRAISING

Hymns and songs of praise

Children's time: Acts 2:1-21

Before Jesus went up to into heaven, he promised his disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's power in us, making us part of God's family and helping us love others. Let's look at a flower and its seeds and see if that helps you imagine what I mean.

(show flower) Look at this flower. It's pretty and smells great. One day, when it dies, it will leave behind some seeds *(show seeds)*. These seeds can be planted in different parts of the world and each one can grow to be a flower just like the one it came from. Now a single flower can only be in one place, but its seeds can be planted in many places. When Jesus was on earth, he could only be in one place at a time. But through the Holy Spirit, God's power can work through us and all believers to share Jesus with people all over the world. If you want to take home a few seeds, you could plant them at your house to remind you of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Offering:

God of fire and wind,
blow away what keeps us from you
and ignite us with your Spirit.
May our giving not only help others
but also be an act of worship for you. Amen.

HEARING

Scripture reading:

For resources for scripture presentation, see www.textweek.com. Look for dramatic resources for Pentecost Sunday of year C. Several are listed, but since they only allude to the story of Pentecost, make sure to read Acts 2:1-21 as well.

Sermon notes:

Are we open to let the Holy Spirit leads us to a new unity, a new community of inclusiveness that encompasses not only those who call on the name of the Lord but the whole of creation? As Westerners, we're used to thinking in terms of opposites: in or out, right or wrong. The Spirit's work at the first Pentecost muddies all these careful boundaries: believers appear drunk, foreigners hear words spoken in their mother tongue, even the created order proclaims God's new way. The Acts text provides a good opportunity to talk about the importance of community to Anabaptist/Mennonites. For a brief overview of the role of community in Anabaptism, see Palmer Becker's "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" (www.mennonitemission.net/resources/Publications/MissioDei/Downloads/MissioDei18.E.pdf), H. S. Bender's *The Anabaptist vision*, or Arnold Snyder's *From Anabaptist Seed*.

RESPONDING

Song

Affirmation of faith

Celebrating the birthday of the church:

Pentecost has sometimes been called the birthday of the church. Celebrate with some birthday cake and punch! Invite Sunday school classes or other groups within the congregation to make cakes or cupcakes (perhaps using carrot cake or healthier ingredients) and to decorate them with colorful red, gold, and yellow icing and sprinkles sometime before worship. Children and youth could then serve the congregation cake and red or orange juice. Sing songs of the Spirit while the food is being served, then raise your cups in a toast/ blessing to the Holy Spirit! You could also sing Happy Birthday to the worldwide church of which your congregation is a part.

Theme song:

HWB 299 *New earth, heavens new*

Peace candle and prayers of the people

Passing the peace

SENDING

Benediction

Go in the power of the Holy Spirit,
the peace of God's presence.
Go in the unity of fellowship;
for we are one in Christ.

Sending song

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF *LEADER*

1. *Leader*
2. Publication No. 0745-1695
3. October 1, 2009
4. Quarterly
5. 4 issues
6. \$33.20
7. 616 Walnut Ave., Scottdale, Westmoreland County, PA 15683-1999
Cathy Depta, (724) 887-8500
8. 616 Walnut Ave., Scottdale, Westmoreland County, PA 15683-1999
9. Publisher: Mennonite Publishing Network, 616 Walnut Ave., Scottdale, PA 15683-1999
Editor: June Mears Driedger, 1918 Clifton Ave., Lansing, MI 48910
10. Mennonite Publishing Network (owned by Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada)
616 Walnut Ave., Scottdale, PA 15683-1999
11. None
12. Has not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. *Leader*
14. September 2008—August 2009
15. A. average 2,390; single issue 2,360
B. 1. average 877; single issue 910
B. 2., 3., 4. average 0; single issue 0
C. average 877; single issue 910
D. 1., 2., 3., 4. average 0; single issue 0
E. average 0; single issue 0
F. average 877; single issue 910
G. average 1,513; single issue 1,450
H. average 2,390; single issue 2,360
I. average 100%; single issue 100%
16. Publication required. Will be printed in the Spring 2010 issue of this publication.
17. I certify that the information supplied above is correct and complete.
Eleanor Snyder, Faith & Life Resource Director