



PENTECOST

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

## Connections to Congregation and Worship

### Hymn Suggestions

“Spirit,” #319 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness,” #291 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*

“We Are One in the Spirit,” #300 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*

“Spirit of the Living God,” #288 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (use as a Prayer for Illumination or as a Kyrie following the Prayer of Confession)

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit,” #66 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (use this as an intro song before the Prayers of the People)

### Bulletin Cover Art

Invite children or youth to submit art to be used as a bulletin cover. Do a Bible study on Psalm 71 and Acts 2 (use the accompanying lesson plans) and encourage children to draw pictures based on what they've learned. Use their drawings as bulletin cover art for worship on Pentecost.

### Minute for Mission

Invite a speaker—from the organization to which your congregation will extend its 40 percent of the Pentecost Offering—to share with the worshipers about their mission and its impact in your community.

### Banner Processional

If children created the Handprint Flame Banner from the Younger Children’s Lesson Plan, invite the children to process in with the banner during the opening hymn and to hang it at the front of the worship space. An alternative children’s sermon lesson would be to ask the children to share with the congregation what is written on the handprints.

### Affirmation of Faith

Instead of a communal Affirmation of Faith, invite a youth or young adult who has attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium or served as a Young Adult Volunteer to speak about how that experience impacted their faith.

(Experiential Faith Formation, Item PO10002, Presbyterian Giving Catalog)

### Recognize Teachers in Worship for Their Role in Building Faith

Pentecost falls at the end or near the end of the school year. Recognize your volunteers who serve in educational ministry in your congregation. Give a gift in their honor to the Pentecost Offering or through any one of the many education/training themed projects in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Use this litany in worship as you recognize and thank the volunteers:

## **Connections to Congregation and Worship** (continued)

### Litany of Thanks for Teachers (based on Acts 2 and Psalm 71)

O God, on the day of Pentecost you came in the rush of the wind and filled your followers with your Spirit. We thank you for the teachers in our lives that you've filled with a passion for telling your story in ways we can hear and understand.

God the Spirit:

**We give you thanks.**

Through your Spirit you call each to use the gifts you have given us. We thank you for the teachers you called who have faithfully served this year, sharing their gifts of instruction, compassion, creativity, and wisdom.

God the Creator:

**We give you thanks.**

Like the flames alighting the disciples, you have lit our teachers with a passion for your justice. We thank you for the ways our teachers have emboldened us with a sense of your justice in the world and inspired us to work to be peacekeepers and peacemakers.

God of Justice:

**We give you thanks.**

From our youth you have taught us, O God. And we still proclaim your wondrous deeds. We thank you for teachers who tell people of all ages of your power and your righteousness; who share your grace and the great things you have done.

God the Teacher:

**We give you thanks. Amen.**

### **Offering**

Arrange in advance for children in the congregation to collect the offering and to lead the "Call to the Offering" and the Prayer of Dedication.\*

\*Based on "A Vision for Children and The Church," adopted by the 205th General Assembly (1993) as a social witness policy to guide the ministry and advocacy of the PC(USA) as a whole.

### Call to the Offering:

The Pentecost Offering we are receiving today helps the church support and encourage its young people. One of the ways it does this is by addressing the needs of at-risk children through child advocacy.

Child 1: Children are a gift from God, created by God, and created good.

Child 2: All children have the right to be children.

Child 3: All children are not just tomorrow, they are today.

Child 1: We hope for a world where all children can find a safe place.

## **Connections to Congregation and Worship** *(continued)*

- Child 2: Where all ages, races, genders, creeds, and abilities are recognized, valued, and celebrated.
- Child 3: Where all adults hear the voices of children and speak with as well as for them.
- Child 1: Jesus welcomed children and encouraged us to welcome them in his name.
- Child 2: Let us give generously as a sign of the hope we have for the children of the world and all who are in need.

*(Children collect offering)*

### Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, may these gifts bring good news to all those places where children and others are in need. May your generosity to us inspire our generosity to those you have called us to care for: the vulnerable, the lost, the forgotten, and the hungry. We pray that these gifts would become gifts of hope through you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*These materials were written by Jenna Campbell, a Certified Christian Educator serving as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma.*