

# Act of Worship: The Day the Spirit Came

*Please feel free to use and adapt some or all of the resources and ideas below for a Collective Act of Worship/ Assembly around the theme of 'The Day the Spirit Came' to help you prepare for and celebrate Pentecost.*

*There are also short prayer services and prayer card resources that can be used for staff prayer or older students which can be found on the Pentecost Novena webpages at [www.northamptondiocese.org](http://www.northamptondiocese.org) and following the links for FAITH and EVANGELISATION.*

## **THEME: The Day the Spirit Came**

*The first Power point slide provided can be put up as a background visual.*

*As students enter and gather play the 'Holy Spirit, Lord of Love' MP3 Instrumental Backing track or live using the sheet music.*

### **+ The Sign of the Cross+**

#### **Hymn: This is the day that the Lord has made**

(Available in a number of hymnbook including Laudate No 465, Liturgical Hymns Old & New 684)

#### **Introduction**

Leader:

Welcome to our Act of Worhsip Today we are going to think about the day that the Holy Spirit came and the effect that this had on the friends of Jesus. After Jesus rose from the dead he told his friends to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to them:

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised;  
but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

The friends of Jesus did what he said. They waited and prayed in Jerusalem until Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and filled them all with great power. Just like those first friends of Jesus Christians today also need to rely on God’s power to bring to bring the Good News of God’s love to others. Let’s remind ourselves about what happened on the day of Pentecost:

#### **Scripture 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.

#### **Video**

Leader: Now let us watch ‘Pentecost explained in Lego’.

*Play the video Pentecost explained in Lego available from the following link:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaQtHoyUdk8>

## **Poems**

Leader: We are now going to hear the two poems. The first poem is called 'One Special Day' and it is by Madeleine Jones from St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Marlow:

(Invite chosen reader to read poem and show the next PowerPoint slide with poem title)

Hearts full of darkness.  
Alone and confused,  
Nothing to do or say.  
No purpose anymore.

Hearts full of sorrow,  
Sad and lonely.  
Good memories abandoned,  
What does this mean?

Hearts full of shock.  
Roar of wind,  
Bursts into the room.  
Is this what Jesus sent?

Hearts full of faith,  
Struck by fire.  
Bursts into their hearts,  
Burns out fear.

Hearts full of confidence,  
Fear vanished,  
Spreading the word.  
Strong and mighty.

Hearts full of strength.  
Uncontrollable preaching,  
Word of God flowing out.  
This is what he sent.

Hearts full of wisdom,  
Mask of shock on people's faces.  
Hope spread across the land,  
What a special day this is.

Is this really happening?  
No-one would feel left out.  
Everyone would hear,  
From this moment forward...

Everything will change!

This second poem is called 'Pentecost' and is by Leonie Brunning from St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School, Bedford

(Invite chosen reader to read poem and show the next PowerPoint slide with poem title)

They were alone lost sheep their shepherd missing  
Gone is the legacy of love and hope  
Hidden in the shadows of fear and hardship  
Wrapped within their shawls of grief

Apostles misled, astray, wanting the light of Jesus to shine  
Churning emotions both shared and secret  
Tangled together hopes and fears like breezes of wind they add and build  
Then within the howling gust a spirit, a flame, a light in the darkness

Then quiet, the anger subsides, finally hope in their tired morning eyes  
Tongues of flame twist and dance  
Weaving to and fro, creating awe and to enchant  
The touch of the flame living and true  
An essence of power and freedom of voice

As the fire caresses the face of each disciple  
Their eyes opened and their tongues are loosened  
The sound of love, light and hope  
Speaking God's graces to all peoples on earth

#### Hymn: Holy Spirit, Lord of Love

You may now wish to sing this hymn, or invite your school choir to sing it. Alternatively as the refrain (chorus) is very simple the verses could be led by the choir or a smaller group and everyone else can sing the refrain (chorus). The backing track and sheet music and words have all been provided.

#### Prayers

The Response to each prayer is 'Help us to be witnesses to your love'. You may wish to involve different students and members of staff in reading these prayers (There is also a PowerPoint slide provided with the prayer response):

*When we meet people who feel afraid- Help us to be witnesses to your love*  
*When we meet people who are unhappy- Help us to be witnesses to your love*  
*When we meet people who feel alone- Help us to be witnesses to your love*  
*When we meet people who lack self-confidence- Help us to be witnesses to your love*  
*When we hear of tragedies around the world in the news- Help us to be witnesses to your love*  
*As we go out to a world in need- Help us to be witnesses to your love*  
*In our homes, in our schools, in our parishes- Help us to be witnesses to your love*  
*In all that we think, do and say- Help us to be witnesses to your love*

Leader: Father, we thank you that by the resurrection of your Son Jesus you have shown us that your love for us is stronger than any power on earth. Fill us with the power of your love this

Pentecost so that we can witness to your love in all that we do and say. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We now say together the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father

**Optional Recessional Hymn:**

The Spirit lives to set us free (Walk in the light) or another hymn about the Holy Spirit that you know.

*As students leave you may wish to play the 'Holy Spirit, Lord of Love' MP3 Instrumental Backing track once again.*

