

**A Liturgy for World Mission Sunday – Pentecost
May 19, 2013
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Call to Worship (responsive)

Come Holy Spirit.

Blow among us today as we worship you, the Creator and Sustainer.

Come Holy Spirit.

Fill us with new visions and new energies to go where you send us.

Come Holy Spirit.

Equip us to meet people right where we encounter them showing them the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Come Holy Spirit.

Receive our worship and praise in this time and space, and in the days to come.

Prayer of the Day

Come Holy Spirit, and meet us right where we are this morning. In this time of worship, speak to us about your love for us. Then move us out into your world to speak and live that same love with all we meet. For it is in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

We, like Paul, don't do what we want or know is right, but instead will do the very thing we hate. All is not lost, because we have a loving, forgiving God who is more ready to forgive our sins than we are to confess them. Let us set the record straight, as we offer our confessions to God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

We are a very judgmental people, O God, even though we know you are the true Judge of us all. Forgive us the times when we fail to reach out to someone with the love of Jesus because of their skin color, their history, their gender, their social status, the clothes they wear or where they live. Forgive us for not being willing to meet your people where they are with the Good News story of your love. Send your Spirit to blow away our judgmental attitudes, our fears and reluctance, and to do what we know you want us to do. Come Holy Spirit and make us clean. [Silence is kept]

Words of Assurance

Sing as a prayer response the chorus – *Spirit of the Living God.*

Friends, hear the good news – In Christ we are made new, the old life is gone and the new life has come. Let us rejoice and be glad in this good news! Amen

Prayer of Illumination

Open our eyes to hear and feel your Holy Word in a new way today. Speak to us clearly, O God, so that we may be equipped and challenged to live out your Holy Word in a world in need of good news. Amen

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

1 Corinthians 9:22b-23 (NLT) – *Meeting People Where They Are* --- sharing the good news of Jesus with anyone and everyone, using whatever means/gifts we possess.

Matthew 28:16-20 – *Go Into All the World* --- we are commissioned/sent out to the whole world and to all people to tell the good news story of Jesus.

Acts 2:1-4 – *Can you Hear Me Now?* Are we speaking and acting in such a way that others can hear and see Jesus in us? How do we need to speak and act so that others can hear us clearly?

Children's Message

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

God's Spirit is at work within our community of faith, and throughout the world. Today we get to be part of this exciting, challenging work by the giving of our tithes and offerings. So let us give with joy and commitment to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bless, O God, the work of our hands and hearts. We dedicate this offering to the work you are doing in our midst and around the world. Send your Holy Spirit to go before these gifts to bring hope and renewal, the hungry fed, the lost found, and the hopeless given hope. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

Prayers of the People

Invite prayers of praise and thanksgiving—

Our praise is like a sweet fragrance to God, better than any perfume or body spray we put on this morning. (Give time for folks to voice their praise and thanksgiving.)

Invite prayers of petition—

Don't worry about speaking over someone. God can multi-hear—hear all things at once. Speak just a word, we don't need the details—God knows the details. (Give time for folks to voice their petitions.)

God, Creator of all things, we do give you our praise and thanksgiving this morning. Praise for your creativity, your joy and your laughter, your love and acceptance of all your children throughout the world. We thank you for opportunities to learn and grow in our faith; for the times of spiritual renewal and refreshment. We thank you, O God, that you meet us every morning where we are and that you stay with us throughout the day.

Even in our praise and thanksgiving, though, our hearts and minds are burdened with concerns for your children who are hurting, who are lonely, who are in distress. And so—we come asking you to meet THEM where they are in their life situations.

We remember this morning those who want to be here, but cannot because of illness, or difficulties of some kind. We remember those who are facing end of life issues, who are going through difficult and trying transitions—those in hospice care and the loved ones who are waiting there with them; those who have received doctor's report and the news was not good; those who are in the middle of treatments, facing surgery or recovering from it; those who are even now holding the hands of a loved one who is slipping away from their grasp on life and falling into your loving arms. Meet them O Lord, right where they are with your love and hope.

We remember in prayer this morning the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Guide us to be more faithful in our calling to love and serve you. Bind us together as true sisters and brothers who have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. Meet us, O Lord, right where we are right now as two denominations, and by your amazing grace bring us together as one.

We lift up the concerns of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the actions of the upcoming General Assembly. Continue to guide us in our work for you. Give our leaders wisdom and grace, give us all tender hearts toward one another so that whatever you call us to do in the world in your name we might do with enthusiasm and joy. Meet us, O God, where we are and move us as a denomination closer to you and your work in the world.

We pray for those who at this very moment are trapped in the bondage of slavery—those who labor in the agriculture fields, those who are domestic slaves, those who make our clothes in sweatshops around the world, those who pick the coffee beans and cocoa beans that we enjoy. Open our eyes to their plight. Then open our hearts and our minds to go out and make a difference for them, so that all your hurting children will know the joy of true freedom. Meet them, Loving God, right where they are this morning, helping them to know that someone cares and that someone is doing something to help them.

O God, give all who are gathered here this morning hearts burdened for your children, wherever they are, whatever they are doing, whoever they may be. Give us all boldness to step out of our routines, our traditions, and comfort zones, to share your great and wonderful news with all that we meet in the days and weeks and years to come.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, who taught us how to pray saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven....

Charge and Benediction

Go in the power of the Holy Spirit to meet people right where they are—neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

Go in the power of the Holy Spirit to love people right where they are—the homeless person, the drug addict, and the prostitute on the street corner.

Go in the power of the Holy Spirit to live out the good news of the gospel.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen

Suggested Hymns

Whosoever Will

Come All Christians, Be Committed

Christ for the World! We Sing
Here I Am, Lord
I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go
I Love to Tell the Story
People Need the Lord
Each One Reach One
Make Me a Servant
Pass It On
Come, Now Is the Time to Worship