

World Missions Day Liturgy 2014



Call to Worship (responsive) (based on Acts 2:1-2, 32, 38-39)

Change your life! Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven.

The winds of the Holy Spirit are blowing upon us. We are ready for God's life-changing power.

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit - God's promise is for you, your children and to those who are far away.

Like the day at Pentecost, let the Holy Spirit spread through our worship today.

Be filled with awe! Be filled with joy for God has raised Jesus to life and we are all witnesses.

Come, Holy Spirit, come to this place of worship.

Opening Prayer

Most gracious God, we come to worship you today anticipating your presence to move and shape us in your image. As we celebrate this day of Pentecost we too want to be filled with your Holy Spirit declaring the power and work of God in our own language. May our songs glorify your name, may our voices testify to your presence and may our faith be contagious to the world in which we live. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Merciful God, we admit to you that we limit the power of your presence in our lives. We believe in what we can see over what we cannot see. We believe that if missionaries are sent to share the gospel then we are free from that responsibility. We repent only when we have been caught. We reserve our opinion on you but openly share our opinion on politics, sports and even our neighbors. When we talk of the spirit we confess we think of things other than your Holy Spirit. When in trouble we turn to our family, our friends, our doctors before we turn to you. Loving God, change our living so that we believe in what we cannot always see, stand and support the efforts in the mission fields, speak openly about you, think more of you and rely more on you. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Peter tells his listeners in Acts 2 that God can change your life and when we turn to God and seek forgiveness our sins. Let us live as God's forgiven people on this day. Amen.

Commission and Blessing (responsive)

God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon this place today.

We are filled with awe and amazement at God's work, wisdom and power.

What will you do with this awe and amazement?

We leave this place filled with energy, commitment and imagination to so that we will minister to the grieving, the hungry, the sick, the poor and the oppressed. Amen.

Pentecost Litany
World Missions Day 2014
Inspired by Acts 2:1-39

Most gracious God, today we celebrate the outpouring of your Holy Spirit on all people. Like wildfire, your Spirit moves with us, among us and through us. Like those gathered for the Feast of Pentecost, we are amazed at your work, your wisdom, and your power.

Fill us with your Spirit, O God.

A glimpse of the wonders of heaven is being revealed and signs on this earth shown. Everyone who calls for help in your name will be saved. Therefore our hearts are filled with gladness, our voices with joy, even our bodies live in hope.

We will witness to your wonderful works, O God.

Awaken within us, Holy Spirit, an unquenchable hunger and stir within us an advocating awareness for missions to provide faithful support to our missionaries and their families.

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

We pray that our missionaries will serve with energy, commitment and imagination to minister to the grieving, the hungry, the sick, the poor, and the oppressed.

We will stand with them and support their efforts, O God.

We pray that our missionaries will teach those who already know you and reach out to those who do not, so that all people will be renewed and experience new life in your name.

We will stand with them and support their efforts, O God.

Let their hard work and sacrifice be an example to us. Miles from home, laborious hours and different cultures may separate them from what is easy and familiar but you spoke to your servants and they listened.

Jesus said, "I will be with you always; day after day after day."

Use our resources and use our offerings to strengthen and expand your mission in the rural areas and in the inner cities in this country and around the world.

We give of our resources and our offerings to strengthen and expand your mission in the world.

May we join with our missionaries and their families around the world in following the teachings of Jesus, sharing in a common meal and uniting with one another through prayer.

Embracing God, we pray that all may come to know you and enjoy your blessings. Amen.

Written by T. J. Malinoski



What Does a Missionary Look Like?



Who knows what a missionary is? (Let the kids ponder on this a little bit and see what they come up with. If they are close – go with it. Here is one definition – *A missionary is a person whose mission is to go somewhere to help others. In many cases, the goal of a missionary is to teach about a religion so that the people convert to that faith. A Missionary can be a **NOUN** – the **PERSON** who goes on a mission. OR it can be an **ADJECTIVE** – the type of work done on such a trip.)*

In the Cumberland Presbyterian Church there have been missionaries (the noun) for as long as we've been a denomination. Our early founders were kind of like missionaries within their own country. They traveled to another part of the country, the West, which was new to them. They preached to people living on the western frontier about Jesus Christ and many, many people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and became believers...and became Cumberland Presbyterians.

In the early days of being a new church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church sent missionaries (the noun) to countries like South America, Japan, Liberia, and Mexico. And THAT is how there are now Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries and/or churches in 16 countries - because of missionaries the NOUN.

Now remember, missionary can also be an ADJECTIVE, describing the work done on a mission trip. And the CP Church has had that for a long, long time as well. Schools have been built for children who could not afford to go. Hot lunches have been provided in those schools for children who were poor and hungry. Houses and churches have been built to provide shelter and a place to live. Medical clinics have been set up to provide medical care to whole communities. There has been Cumberland Presbyterian work groups from the US and other countries which have traveled to locations outside their home country to do missionary work. (**NOTE:** *if your church or presbytery has sponsored such a group, please refer to that ministry so the kids will have a tangible example*). SO – missionary is a BIG word.

During the time between Easter and Pentecost – we will be thinking and praying about missions in the CP Church. (*Distribute the 50 Days of Prayer calendar to each child*). Take this prayer calendar home to help you pray for our missionaries and the missionary work begin done around the world. Use it as a resource and guide to learn more about missions. At the end of our 50 days of prayer, we will celebrate **the Stott-Wallace Missionary Offering** on Pentecost Sunday. This offering is named after two missionary families – Buddy and Beverly Stott who were missionaries to Japan from 1964-1990; and Boyce & Beth Wallace who are missionaries in Colombia (from 1963 – today). During these days of prayer, look for ways that you can contribute to this very important offering that will go to help send missionaries around the world.

Let us pray –

Dear God, thank you for the missionaries that have listened for you call to go to other countries to tell others about the love of Jesus. Help more people hear that call. And help us do what we are able to tell others about you and your love. In Jesus name we pray,