

LET US PRAY PENTECOST



Prayers for Pentecost and Novena to the Holy Spirit

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your Word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us
and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reflection

Before he left, Jesus told his friends he would send them the Advocate, the Comforter. Now we see this Comforter coming as wind, as flame, reminding us that comfort is not always comfortable, for it makes itself known in community, where we find the most searing challenges—and the deepest blessings—we will ever know.

This Grace That Scorches Us, a blessing for Pentecost Day © Jan Richardson, 2014

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

This Novena draws on the scripture readings for Pentecost (the Vigil Mass and the Mass during the Day) accompanied by the powerful, challenging poetry of Rev'd Jon Swales. There is also a brief reflection and a prayer for each of the nine days from Ascension to Pentecost.

In Christian art, the Holy Spirit is often symbolized by a white dove, representing gentleness and peace. With its pure white feathers, the dove mirrors the purity of God, and its swift flight in the air reminds us of the many movements of the Holy Spirit in our soul. But Jon takes an idea from the early Celtic Christians, using the image of a wild goose to convey the Holy Spirit's ability to disrupt and surprise us.

The Hebrew word *ruach* means "wind," "breath," or "spirit," and is commonly used in passages referring to the Holy Spirit as below here.

DAY ONE

Scripture

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1

Poem

Here is
the holy breath —
Ruach,
wind unleashed,
fire unfenced,
birth without borders.

The Gospel of the Wild Goose

Reflection

Wind or fire – which image of the Holy Spirit best speaks to you?

Think of a time when you were overwhelmed by a powerful storm. Did you find it frightening or exhilarating?
Can you recall an experience that touched you so deeply that it felt as though your heart was on fire?

Prayer

Lord, let your rushing wind blow over me, sweeping away all that holds me back from coming close to you.
May the warmth of your holy fire enflame my heart, inspiring me to reach out to others in friendship.

DAY TWO**Scripture**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. *Romans 8:27*

Poem

The Spirit is no commodity —
not a thing to own,
but Companion,
leading us into unknown.
Advocate,
Breath of Life,
Mother of the marginalised,
wild as creation's first cry.

The Gospel of the Wild Goose

Reflection

Prayer does not always come easy – finding the 'right' words, making quality time to sit quietly with God and listen to his still, small voice. The Spirit guide us, breathing life into our dry bones, sustaining us.

Prayer

Lord, when I do not know how to pray, breathe your Spirit into me.
May the cry of my heart, wild and unformed, find its home in you.

DAY THREE**Scripture**

They cried to the Lord in their need,
and he rescued them from their distress,
and he guided them along a straight path,
to reach a city they could dwell in.

Psalms 107 (106) 6-7

Poem

Hope whispers my name,
And speaks to my soul.
'Rest a while,
I have a healing balm and will tend your wounds.'

Hope Whispers my Name from Let Me Be the Kind Who Weeps

Reflection

When we are feeling overburdened the breath of God's gentle love offers an oasis of peace where we can find healing and repose.

Prayer

Lord, remind me to always put my trust in you.
May I be refreshed and strengthened by the power of your loving Spirit.

DAY FOUR

Scripture

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."' *John 7:37-38*

Poem

I want to weep
with eyes wide open.

Tears that speak truth.
Tears that rise
from the ground of compassion,
from the jagged knowledge
that the world is not
as it was meant to be.
Weep with Eyes Wide Open from Let Me Be the Kind Who Weeps

Reflection

Following Christ was never meant to be comfortable. Jesus opens our eyes to a world that is far from perfect: a world of inequality and hardship for many, a world where too often violence has the upper hand.

Prayer

Lord, grant me the gift of compassion, that I may put the needs of others before my own.
Open my eyes to search for those whom society casts aside, for it is there that I will see you.

DAY FIVE

Scripture

'I will show wonders in the heaven and on earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.'
Joel 3:3

Poem

Here is the Church,
huddled, locked,
minds fogged,
and suddenly —
the Spirit bursts in:
wind that will not be tamed,
flame that will not be snuffed,
holy unrest that won't be silenced.
The Gospel of the Wild Goose

Reflection

Pentecost challenges us to make a radical change in our lives – to look outwards at the world around us and question what we see. Do we have the courage to speak out against injustice, to lobby for change for the sake of people and planet?

Prayer

Lord, may the Church be a place of welcome
where all are invited to eat at your table and shelter under your roof.

DAY SIX

Scripture

You take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from whence they came.
Psalms 104 (103) v29

Poem

He did not come robed in safety.
He did not come crowned in gold.
He came with dust on his sandals,
blood in his future,
and fire in his bones.

Not to keep the peace—
but to break it open.
The Gospel of the Wild Messiah

Reflection

The world puts great store on riches, power and fame but these things are transitory and quickly turn to dust. The wild Messiah challenges us to look beyond the things of earthly splendour that we may discover what truly matters.

Prayer

Lord, when I am tempted to follow the ways of the world,
pull me back and set my steps firmly on the path that leads to you.

DAY SEVEN**Scripture**

They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
Acts 1:4

Poem

Here is a man.
Sworn to Caesar.
A soldier's posture,
a servant's pain.
Faith speaks from strange lips.
Jesus listens.
Heals.

Let the church be like this—
wide-lunged enough
to breathe in
foreign hope.
The Gospel of the Wild Messiah

Reflection

Something feels fractured in the UK right now. There is a new hardness in the air. You can feel it on the streets, hear it in conversations, see it in our politics. For immigrants, refugees, Muslims, and people of colour, it can feel like the ground is shifting beneath their feet. Phrases like “send them back” and “stop the boats” are not just political slogans—they carry fear. They tell people they are unwanted.
Moral Excommunication & the Progressive Left, Jon Swales

Prayer

Lord, so many people feel unwelcome in these troubled times.
Teach me to show kindness and compassion to those from other shores, the outcast and the stranger.
May I see your image and likeness in them.

DAY EIGHT**Scripture**

You send forth your spirit and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
Psalms 104 (103) v30

Poem

The Wild Spirit
forms us —
church and soul —
into the wild shape
of the crucified King,
cruciform love
carved in flesh and fire.
The Gospel of the Wild Goose

Reflection

Cruciform love means following Christ in his passion, stepping outside our comfort zone, adapting to new ideas, new surroundings.

Prayer

Lord, may your Holy Spirit guide and inspire me to take the path I would rather not travel.
May I have the courage to follow wherever you may lead as I put my trust in you.

DAY NINE

Scripture

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'

John 20:19

Poem

The kingdom is not far.
It is falling
like a tear
from the face of God.

And still
he walks.
Still
he calls.
Still
he touches the untouchable
and invites the forgotten home.
The Gospel of the Wild Messiah

Reflection

The Holy Spirit often works through the most unlikely people in the most unexpected ways.
If we are open to new possibilities we may discover kingdom bearers in those who are lost and forgotten.

Prayer

Let the Church be this:
Spirit-shaped,
fire-tinged,
risk-taking,
margin-walking,
wounded, wild,
and faithful.
Amen,
and amen again.
The Gospel of the Wild Goose

Prayer

Holy Spirit, Divine Truth and Teacher,
fill us with Your wisdom.
A wisdom that redeems the scars of our suffering.
A wisdom that clothes us in humility and courage.
A wisdom that walks the path of Christ with honour and joy.
Amen.
Come, Holy Spirit: A Prayer for Wisdom, Healing, and Holy Presence © Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia, 2025

CONTRIBUTORS

Jan Richardson <https://www.janrichardson.com/>

Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia <https://revlisad.com/>

Rev'd Jon Swales <https://www.cruciformjustice.com>

The Gospel of the Wild Goose <https://www.cruciformjustice.com/post/the-gospel-of-the-wild-goose>

The Gospel of the Wild Messiah <https://www.cruciformjustice.com/post/the-gospel-of-the-wild-messiah>

Hope Whispers my Name and Weep with Eyes Wide Open from *Let Me Be the Kind Who Weeps*

<https://www.lighthousewestyorkshire.org.uk/books>

Anne O'Connor Prayers and Reflections

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Booklet compiled by Anne O'Connor, May 2026