

“Come, Holy Spirit ... and Change Everything”

Pentecost Sunday, 05/24/2026; Acts 2:1–21; 1 Corinthians 12:3–13

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There are certain moments in history when everything changes.

People remember exactly where they were when walls came down, when wars ended, when nations gained freedom, or when tragedy suddenly shook the world. Such moments divide time into “before” and “after.” Life is never quite the same again.

Pentecost was such a moment.

The disciples would forever remember where they were when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They were gathered together in fear, uncertainty, and waiting. Jesus had ascended. The future was unclear. They were between what had been and what was yet to come.

And then suddenly—Acts tells us—there came from heaven the sound of a rushing violent wind, and tongues as of fire rested upon them.

And everything changed. The frightened became fearless. The silent began to speak. The divided began to understand one another. The hidden church stepped into the streets. And an uncertain community became the living Body of Christ.

That is what the Holy Spirit does. The Spirit of God changes everything.

From the very beginning of Scripture, the Spirit has always been the breath of new creation.

In Genesis, the Spirit moved over the chaos before creation emerged. In Ezekiel, the breath of God entered dry bones and brought life to what was dead. Throughout the ministry of Jesus, the Spirit brought healing, hope, courage, and transformation.

And now, on Pentecost, that same Spirit descends not merely upon prophets, kings, or chosen individuals—but upon everyone: Young and old, Women and men, and Servants and free, and ordinary people. The Spirit fell upon them all.

This is one of the great miracles of Pentecost: God's presence is no longer restricted to the temple, to the elite, or to the spiritually powerful. God pours out the Spirit generously upon all flesh.

And that means Pentecost is not merely about what happened long ago.

Pentecost is about us. The same Spirit that shook the upper room still moves among God's people today. The same Spirit still breathes life into weary hearts, still empowers ordinary people, still disrupts complacency, and still sends the church into the world. The church was not born in comfort. It was born in wind and fire.

Too often, however, we prefer safety over Spirit. We prefer predictability over transformation. We prefer institutions that preserve themselves rather than movements that change the world. But the Holy Spirit is never content to leave us comfortable.

The Spirit pushes the disciples out of closed rooms and into open streets. The Spirit sends them across boundaries of language, ethnicity, and fear. Suddenly people from every nation hear the gospel in their own tongue.

Pentecost reverses the tragedy of Babel.

At Babel, human pride divided humanity into confusion. At Pentecost, divine grace creates unity amid diversity. Notice carefully: the Spirit does not erase differences. The miracle is not that everyone suddenly speaks the same language. The miracle is that people hear and understand one another through the power of God.

That matters deeply for the church today. We live in a divided world. People are separated by politics, race, nationality, class, ideology, and fear. Even churches can become places of division instead of reconciliation.

Yet Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit creates a community where differences are not erased but woven together into the beautiful tapestry of the Body of Christ.

That is exactly what Paul is speaking about in 1 Corinthians.

“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” One Spirit, one body but many members.

The Spirit does not create uniformity; the Spirit creates unity. The Spirit works through many, but with one purpose.

Not everyone is called to do the same thing. Not everyone has the same gifts. Some teach. Some serve. Some lead. Some encourage. Some comfort. Some organize. Some give generously. Some sing. Some pray quietly behind the scenes. But every gift matters because every person matters.

Some worry about the increasing demographic changes in our country. There is a question whether the church can survive amidst these changes.

And perhaps the church today needs Pentecost more than ever.

Many congregations worry about decline. We wonder about shrinking attendance, aging buildings, changing culture, and uncertain futures. It is easy to become discouraged.

But Pentecost reminds us that Christianity began not as a powerful institution but as a small praying community waiting for God. And when the Spirit came, everything changed. The

future of the church has never depended merely on programs, buildings, or budgets. The future of the church depends upon whether we are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The Celtic Christians had a beautiful symbol for the Holy Spirit. Instead of the dove, they often used the image of the wild goose.

Why? It is because a wild goose cannot be domesticated. It is noisy, disruptive, unsettling, and impossible to control. That is the Spirit of Pentecost.

The Spirit disturbs us when we become too comfortable. The Spirit calls us outward when we become inward-focused. The Spirit opens doors we would rather keep closed. The Spirit creates new possibilities where we see only limits.

Sometimes we pray:

“Come, Holy Spirit.” But we should be careful when we pray that prayer. Because when the Spirit truly comes, things change. Comfort zones collapse. Fear gives way to courage. Barriers begin to fall. The church leaves the upper room. And ordinary people discover that God can work through them.

So perhaps the real question this Pentecost is this: Are we willing to let the Holy Spirit change everything? Are we willing to let the Spirit reshape our hearts? Reignite our churches? Renew our mission? Expand our compassion? Send us into the world as witnesses of Christ’s love?

Pentecost is an invitation. It is an invitation to open ourselves once more to the breath of God. So, let us say, Come, Holy Spirit. Come into your church. Come into our hearts. Come into our fears and failures. Come into our weariness and divisions. Come into this world aching for hope. Come, Holy Spirit ... and change everything. Amen.