

**Worship Material**  
**The Holy Spirit poured out for all**  
**Material from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 19th May**

**Begin with opening prayer**

God of Pentecost,  
come to us today and fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Teach us to see the new things you are doing in us.  
Help us to embrace the changes and challenges you ask of us,  
as we look for the coming of your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

**Read Acts 2:1-21**

**Bible notes**

The outpouring of God's Spirit promised by Jesus (Acts 1:5,8) in fulfilment of prophecy from Joel (2:28-32, quoted in Acts 2:17-21) to John the Baptist (Luke 3:16), takes place at Pentecost. By Jesus' time Pentecost celebrated the Mosaic covenant and the giving of the law on Sinai (Mishnah Megillah 2:3). Hearing their cry, the Lord came down to deliver the people from Egypt and to give them the law at Mount Sinai, but warned them to keep their distance and not to ascend the mountain when it was wrapped in smoke, signifying the divine presence. At Pentecost, the Lord comes down again to deliver Jesus' disciples from their failure and fear, but this time the wind of God's presence fills them, and the fire is among them and upon them, as the Spirit writes the law on their hearts. God had promised, 'I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people...for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest' (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Similarly, Peter here describes what is happening with the words of Joel, affirming that the Spirit is being poured out on 'all flesh', female and male, young and old, slave and free. Pillars of cloud and fire led the people of Israel through the wilderness towards the Promised Land, but now the wind and fire of the Spirit empowers Jesus' apostles to witness to his resurrection, '...when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea... and to the ends of the earth' (1:8).

## Prayer

### A prayer of thanksgiving

'I will sing to the Lord all of my life.

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.' (Psalm 104:33)

We praise you, Lord, that your Holy Spirit is poured out for everyone.

We claim your power now for ourselves, and each other.

Exchange the 'power' with each other:

the power of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

### A prayer to conclude

Loving God,

we have gathered in your name,

and have offered our praise.

We have made our prayers to you,

and have shared our hopes and dreams.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit,

To reveal your glory to the world.

Amen.