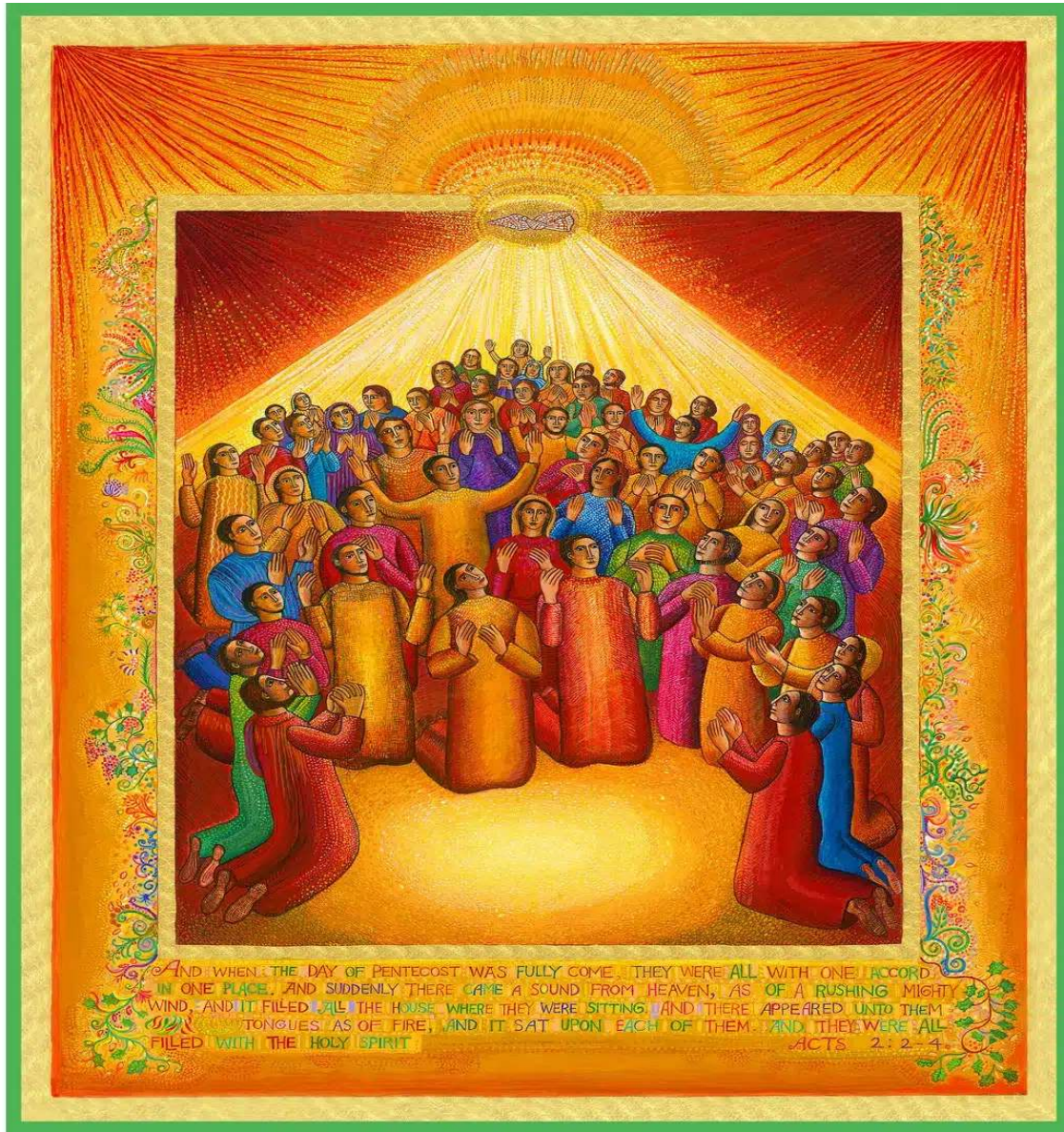


ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

May 19th, 2024

Pentecost Sunday

A Service of the Word



Pentecost serigraph

By John August Swanson, 2013

<https://johnaugustswanson.com/catalog/pentecost2013/>

Pentecost, 2013 (above) is based on a small etching from 1983. The Holy Spirit descends on the people gathered, as mighty winds and tongues of fire, enabling them to speak to all of the wonders of God.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

May 19th, 2024

Pentecost Sunday

A Service of the Word

**“You think you know your possibilities. Then other people come into your life
and suddenly there are so many more.”**

-David Levithan-

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Keith Konet

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Call to Worship**

One: God has done great things for us!

Many: We declare God’s mighty works with all we have!

One: In a world where there is deceit and unkindness,

Many: We declare God’s mighty works with all we have!

One: We praise the One who has kept us safe and provided for us.

Many: We worship the One who has blessed us with holy wisdom!

One: Let us worship God together!

Many: Come, Holy Spirit!

***Gathering Prayer**

Jesus, our sibling and friend, we thank you for your example, which guides us as we share the good news of God’s love with a hurting world. Thank you for protecting us, teaching us, and equipping us to partner with you to work for love and justice. Help us share the joy we’ve found in our relationship with you. Empower us with the Holy Spirit, that we might testify to God’s goodness. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: NCH 286 - "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" vv. 1, 3, & 4**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

The arrival of the Holy Spirit in Acts takes place on the day of Pentecost, meaning fifty, which marks fifty days after Easter. Shavuot, the Jewish spring festival of the first fruits of harvest, takes place fifty days after Passover and commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mt. Sinai. It was one of the pilgrimage festivals in which Jewish people from all over the Roman Empire would come to Jerusalem. Many of them only spoke a little Hebrew that was needed for worship and were native speakers of the local languages from where they lived. When the disciples began speaking to them in their own languages, they were astounded. For the disciples had experienced the Holy Spirit while they were gathered together, like the rush of a violent wind, and divided tongues as of fire had rested on their heads. Peter proclaims to the crowds, some of whom are grumbling that the disciples are drunk, that this is the work of the Holy Spirit, prophesied by the prophet Joel, and that those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

2 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. 2 Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. 3 Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. 4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now devout people were living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, 6 and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken. 7 They were amazed and astonished: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! 8 How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? 9 We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome—

11 all Jews, or converts to Judaism—Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our language, about the marvels of God!"

12 All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" 13 But others said mockingly, "They've drunk too much new wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: "Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! 15 These people are not drunk as you think—it's only nine o'clock in the morning! 16 No, it's what Joel the prophet spoke of:

17 'In the days to come—
it is our God who speaks—
I will pour out my Spirit
on all humankind.
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
your young people will see visions,
and your elders will dream dreams.

18 Even on the most insignificant of my people,
both women and men,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

19 And I will display wonders
in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below:
blood, fire and billowing smoke.

20 The sun will be turned into darkness
and the moon will become blood
before the coming of the
great and sublime day of our God.

21 And all who call upon the name
of our God will be saved.'

Psalm Response: Psalm 104:24-34,35b (Responsively)

Psalm 104 is a hymn of praise to God, giving thanks for creation. In vs. 24-34 and 35b, the psalmist sings of how all God's creatures are made from God's wisdom, and how God provides for them. However, when their breath is taken from them, they die and return to the dust. When God sends forth the spirit, they are renewed. The psalmist sings praise for all of creation and rejoices in God the creator.

104 24 God, what variety you have created,
arranging everything so wisely!
the earth is filled with your creativity!

**25 there's the vast expanse of the sea,
teeming with countless creatures,
living things large and small,**

26 with the ships going to and fro
and Leviathan whom you made to frolic there.

**27 All creatures depend on you
to feed them at the proper time.**

28 Give it to them—they gather it up.
open your hand—they are well satisfied.

**29 Hide your face—they are terrified.
take away their breath—they die and return to dust.**

30 send back your breath—fresh life begins
and you renew the face of the earth.

**31 Glory forever to God!
May you find joy in your creation!**

32 You glance at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke!

**33 I will sing to you all my life,
I will make music for my God as long as I live.**

34 May these reflections of mine give God
as much pleasure as God gives me!

**35b bless God, my soul!
Alleluia!**

Second Reading: Romans: 8:22-27

The apostle Paul writes of all creation groaning in labor pains, until now. All of humanity and creation has been waiting for redemption. Paul reminds the church in Rome that while they are groaning, they are waiting for a hope unseen, and the Spirit intercedes in their prayers with “sighs too deep for words.” God knows our hearts because of the work of the Spirit in us.

8 22 We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. 23 And not only creation, but all of us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit—we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

24 In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; why does one hope for what one sees? 25 And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

26 The Spirit, too, comes to help us in our weakness. For we don’t know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit expresses our plea with groanings too deep for words. 27 And God, who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what the Spirit is saying, because the Spirit’s intercessions for God’s holy people are made according to the mind of God.

Gospel Reading: John 15:26-27, 16: 4b-15

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as the Advocate to come in these verses in John 15 and 16. Before Jesus’ arrest and death, he knew some of the disciples were afraid and full of sadness. Nonetheless, Jesus told them he must die for the Advocate to come. The Holy Spirit as Advocate would prove the world wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment, and the Spirit would guide the disciples into the truth and declare what is to come.

15 15 26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from Abba God, the Spirit of truth who comes from my Abba, the Spirit will testify on my behalf. 27 You also are to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

16 4b “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to the One who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send the Advocate to you. 8 And when the Spirit of truth comes, the Spirit will prove the world wrong about sin and righteous-

ness and judgment: 9 about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to Abba God, and you will see me no longer; 11 about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, the Spirit will guide you into all the truth, for the Spirit will not speak on its own but will speak whatever it hears, and the Spirit will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 The Spirit will glorify me because the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that Abba God has is mine. For this reason I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Choir Hymn: NCH - 283 - "Spirit of the Living God"

Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5

Text & Music: © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)

Choir: Barbara Rossington, Bob Bucklew, and Keith Konet
A Cappella

Reflection – "Hear What the Spirit Is Saying" - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

*** Prayer of Response**

Blessed Spirit, we thank you for all your good gifts—for the ways we show love and care and concern for one another. We thank you for the gift of courage to speak up and act for justice in a world of oppression. We thank you for the gift of wisdom to know when to listen and to be open to change in our hearts and lives. We thank you for the gift of insight to know when we can contribute to the community in caring for each other's needs. We thank you for all the gifts you have given us. May we remember we always have a gift from you, that we always have something to give to each other and to participate in this world, and that your gift of love is available to all. We know this gift best through your Only Begotten, Jesus Christ, in whom we live, move, and have our being. Amen.

***Hymn of Response: NCH 292 - "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Just as everything given to Jesus comes from God, everything given to us comes from Jesus, the foremost human example for our faith. May we respond to that gift with joy, mindful of the ways God works in this church, in this community, and in this world.

The Offertory – Keith Konet

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;**

Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Blessing of the Gifts**

Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for those who are vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: "Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit"**
(sung to the tune of NCH 459 - "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing")

"Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit" "

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2008

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D

Composer: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 Faithful God, you sent your Spirit
Long ago at Pentecost.
You gave life and said to share it,
All as one, beneath your cross.
May we see your wondrous blessing
When your people everywhere
Work together, all confessing
Faith that binds us, faith to share.**

2 God of hope, you daily nurture
Those who seek to follow you.
You're not bound by any culture;
You love rich and poor ones, too.
In an ever-changing nation,
May your churches welcome in
Every child of your creation,
Giving hope to all again.

3 God of love, may we in worship
Welcome our diversity.
May we reach in trust and friendship
To the poor and refugee.
May we see Christ in the stranger,
Breaking bonds of hate and fear.
By your Spirit, may we offer
Glimpses of your kingdom here.

***Commissioning**

One: God's Breath of hope has torn open
the shutters of our hearts,

**All: So that we may open them to all who long
for grace and life.**

One: Justice is the strong wind poured into us
by the One who is Brother to those who are forgotten.

**All: We will go into the streets of our neighborhoods
to serve our siblings.**

One: A new community is being shaped by the Holy Spirit,
made up of those from every place, every tongue.

**All: We will join hearts with those we meet,
we will learn songs of joy in new languages.**

***Benediction**

Christ sends you out to proclaim God's good news! God has done great work in you. Now go and let God work through you! **Amen!**

Postlude - Keith Konet *(please be seated for the Postlude)*

* * * * *

Credits

- 1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offering, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *In the World: Service Prayers for the Day of Pentecost Year B*, written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC's Disabilities Ministries Board to provide music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice. Permission is given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- 2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resource for May 19th, Pentecost*, by Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas and posted on May 8th, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-v-lution.org/>.
- 3) The Commissioning is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for, May 19th, 2024, Pentecost-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted May 6th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>.
- 4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserve

All of Us, Ministers

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission, and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Our Thanks to Keith Konet

for playing the hymns and special music for today's service, while Adam takes a vacation day. Our appreciation for your willingness, Keith, and your music ministry.

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th Street/home). The days and hours are:

Spring Schedule:

Tuesday— 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.

- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- The people of Haiti.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 198 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of May 15th.
- **Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**
 2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)
 - 2022 - 646
 - 2021 - 689
 - 2020 - 610
 - 2019 - 414
 - 2018 - 335
 - 2017 - 247
 - 2016 - 383
 - 2015 - 332
 - 2014 - 272
- While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti’s brother Dave doing well after another procedure).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew’s Dad*) residing in Senior Living has been moved to a rehab center for strength building after a short stay in the hospital .
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore’s neighbor - also Ivory, Ken’s downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie Sommer (the young daughter of Scott’s friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.

- Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother-in-law, Bob Naugle, who is home after 90 days in the hospital.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friends, Sue Renovitz and Heather.
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
- Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
- Debbie Webb
- Beverly Wurm and family and her friend, Jon recuperating in hospital after surgery.

Pentecost Sunday is May 19, 2024



The Christian holiday of Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day of the Easter season. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31).

Pentecost is one of the Great Feasts in the Eastern Orthodox Church, a Solemnity in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, a Festival in the Lutheran Churches and the United Church of Christ, and a Principal Feast in the Anglican Communion. Many Christian denominations provide a special liturgy for this holy celebration.

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning "fiftieth". It refers to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. It is also known as the "Feast of Weeks" and the "Feast of 50 days" in rabbinic tradition.

The events of Acts Chapter 2 are set against the backdrop of the celebration of Pentecost in Jerusalem. The author begins by noting that the disciples of Jesus "all met in one room" on the "day of Pentecost" (ἡμέρα τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς) [Acts 2:1]. The verb used in Acts 2:1 to indicate the arrival of the day of Pentecost carries a connotation of fulfillment.

There is a "violent, rushing wind" (wind is a common symbol for the Holy Spirit), and "something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire" [Acts 2:3]. The gathered disciples were "all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" [Acts 2:4]. Some scholars have interpreted the passage as a reference to the multitude of languages spoken by the gathered disciples [Acts 2:6–11], while others have taken the reference to "tongues" (γλῶσσαι) to signify ecstatic speech [1 Corinthians 14]. In Christian tradition, this event represents the fulfillment of the promise that Christ will baptize his followers with the Holy Spirit [Acts 1:5; John 14:16–17].

The main sign of Pentecost in the West is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Clergy and choirs wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well. Red banners are often hung from walls or ceilings to symbolize the blowing of the "mighty wind" and the free movement of the Spirit. Other congregations have incorporated the use of red balloons, signifying the "Birthday of the Church". These may be held by the congregants, decorate the sanctuary, or released all at once