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Hymns from *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (WJK, 2013)

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us (280)
Come, O Holy Spirit, Come / *Wa wa wa Emimimo* [Nigeria] (283)
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (285)
Breathe on Me, Breath of God (286)
Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading [Tanzania] (287)
O Day of Joy and Wonder! (290)
As the Wind Song [Singapore/New Zealand] (292)
Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord (707)
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (716)

Call to Worship

**The liturgist will read the words designated "One" and the congregation will respond, not in word, but in action, as noted in the italicized words.*

**One: On the day of Pentecost,
the church was gathered together in one place.
Could it have looked something like this?**

Turn and look around you; notice the people who sit near you today.

**One: On the day of Pentecost,
the Spirit of God blew through the church like a howling wind.
Could it have sounded something like this?**

Respond by making wind noises with your mouth and by rubbing your hands back and forth.

**One: On the day of Pentecost,
differences were minimized as people came together
seeing and hearing one another.
Could it have felt something like this?**

Respond by holding hands with someone close to you.

**One: On the day of Pentecost,
the Spirit of God fell down like rain
on everyone gathered there that day.**

And sons and daughters prophesied.

If you are someone's child, no matter your age, place one hand on your heart.

**And young people saw visions,
and old people dreamed dreams.**

If you consider yourself wise in years, place a second hand on your heart.

**One: Thanks be to God for bringing us together
in this place for worship.**

**May we, like those before us,
worship God with our whole hearts. Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

People of God,
although we would like for our story to sound like Pentecost —
a story where everyone from every nation is heard,
the Spirit is visible, and people are united —
we know that our story sounds very different, painfully different.
Thus, we come to the portion in the service
where we confess our sins, where we practice truth-telling,
acknowledging that we desperately need God's Spirit in our lives.
Let us confess our sins together, to the God of the early church and the God of the here and
now. Let us pray:

One: Mighty God, you showed up in dazzling light and in a still, small voice.

**Many: You showed up as a tiny baby lying in a manger.
You showed up on a long dusty walk to Emmaus.**

One: You keep showing up in the most mysterious ways,
so we should have known you might show up like a powerful wind,
bringing with you the reminder of warmth,
and the ability for us to hear one another.

**Many: We should have known, and yet we didn't.
We don't. We doubt.**

One: Like the disciples on the way to Emmaus, we can't see you.
Like the weary people of Bethlehem, we don't make room for you.

**Many: And like members of the early church community,
we look for excuses to explain your presence away.**

One: Loving God, forgive our weak hearts,
because from the beginning you have been here, revealing yourself to us.

Many: And from the beginning, we have struggled to see that.

One: Despite our bad track record, we come to you today, asking that once more you might give us a second chance; we ask that once more you might pour your Spirit out on us.

Many: For we are in desperate need of you and the mysterious ways you keep showing up. Amen.

The leader may pour water into the font.

One: People of God, hear this good news:
Despite our failings, God is here,
and God has poured out God's spirit on all flesh.
We are united, we are made clean,
and we are free to dream new dreams for this broken world.
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Friends, join me in a meditative prayer for illumination.

I invite you to bow your heads
and open your non-dominant hand, palm side up.

Trace the shape of the wind on your palm
in honor of the way the Spirit can move in us.

Now, trace a flame on your palm,
remembering how God can show up in mysterious ways,
remembering how the presence of God warms and purifies us.

Now, clasp your hands, lacing your fingers together,
remembering the way in which Scripture calls us
into unity with one another.

With clear minds and focused hearts,
I pray that we may hear the words of Scripture today,
and be receptive to the way in which God speaks to us
through this good word.

In God's holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Friends, if all you give is yourself,
I believe God's heart will be full.
However, if you are able to give another offering of some sort,
and if it is able to impact another —
providing worship that comforts them,
food that feeds them,

or relationships that nurture them —
then perhaps God’s heart might overflow.
So, let us give joyfully now, for the Spirit of God is moving,
and there are many who need Her comfort.
Let us give our offering now.

Prayer of Dedication

God, you have given us absolutely everything we have.

You gave us sunsets and speckled eggs,
tiny newborn hands and silver moons,
so that we could know what beauty looks like.

You gave us major keys and harmonies,
forgiveness and poetry,
so that we could know what love sounds like.

You gave us hands to build, fire to warm,
water to clean and food to fill,
so that we could know what peace feels like.

And you gave us hearts to give, minds to hope,
hands to serve and mouths to pray,
so that we know what your Kingdom loves like.

So today we pray that you might be able to use these humble gifts
to bring your kingdom here,
so that more may know what beauty looks like,
what love sounds like and what peace feels like,
saying all the while, “thank you, thank you, thank you.”

For you have given us everything we have.

Gratefully we pray. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

Family of faith,
I imagine that, on that Pentecost day,
Peter stood up and said to the crowd:
“Friends, whether you are Jew or Greek,
Parthian or Mede, young or old, slave or free, Cretan or Arab,
you are welcome here — for this is God’s table.”

So, friends, 2,000 years later,
as we gather around this table, I say to you:
Whether you are Presbyterian or nondenominational,
male, female or gender fluid,

Republican or Democrat, young or old, gay or straight,
you are welcome here.

For this table is God's table.
And at this table we proclaim the kingdom of God.
At this table we are united.
At this table we are hopeful.
At this table we come hungry and leave fed.
At this table there is space for everyone.
At this table the young can see visions, and the old can dream dreams.
And at this table, if you listen closely,
you just may hear the rush of a mighty wind.

So come, for at this table
you will, are and will always be, welcome.

Great Thanksgiving

**This prayer includes the option for congregational candle lighting (via small hand-held candles commonly used on Christmas Eve) but may be adapted to best fit your order of worship. The candle lighting, representing the tongues of fire present at Pentecost, may begin at the opening of the prayer and continue as the prayer is spoken. If you are celebrating Communion, use Ending No. 1, and if not, omit the opening dialogue and use Ending No. 2. Prior to beginning the prayer, invite worshipers to begin lighting the candles that have been passed out to them, continuing to pass the flame person-to-person as you speak the prayer.*

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God, you have been called you El Shaddai, Adonai and Elohim.
We have called you Creator, Father and Mother, and Source of our love.

We need more than one name for you, God,
because you are bigger than our imagination.
You are God of all Creation, of all time and space,
and yet somehow, you are here with us.

You are here with us, just like you were there
with Peter and the early church on that Pentecost day.

There might not be tongues of fire and a howling wind,
but we wonder, nonetheless,
if the room caught fire with your Spirit,
would we be afraid, or would we have the strength
to remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace?
Would we remember the way you saved them,
and the way you keep saving us?
And if the room caught fire with your Spirit,
would we tremble, or would we dance,
overcome by your presence in our lives?

We wonder, God, because the world is a dark place,
and often, we would like to ask for a second helping of your Spirit.
Often, we would like to ask that you break through these walls
with a sign that you are here;
with a sign as tangible as the wind on our skin
and tongues of fire in the air.

However, until the day comes
where you might blow through this room again
like a mighty rushing wind,
we light these candles as symbols of your good news.
And we will take these beacons of hope out into the world,
protecting your warmth with our feeble, cupped hands.

And we will go find the people who need your light:
those whose food has run out;
those who have joined hospice,
and those who ache for them;
those who suffer from hate crimes and bigotry,
and those who commit hate crimes and bigotry.

We will carry your light to them,
because we know that when we do,
we have the best chance of feeling your Spirit whirl around us,
which we so often need.

Ending No. 1 (For Communion):

So, God, we come to this table,
with feeble hands cupping glimmers of light,
praying for you to bless this bread and this cup
so that we may find the strength and nourishment
to do your good work.
Pour out your Spirit on us, and on these simple elements,
so that we may remember the way in which Jesus lived,
modeling for us how we should live.

And bless our hearts,
so that as we partake in this meal
we may feel your Spirit drawing us together
as one unified body in Christ.

You are here with us,
just like you were there with Peter and the early church
on that Pentecost day.

So, with praise and gratitude,
we remember the words that Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

Invite worshipers to blow out candles before the Breaking of the Bread.

Ending No. 2 (Non-Communion):

So, God, as we light these candles in memory
of the fire that burned bright on that Pentecost day,
help us remember your warmth.
Help us remember the way in which
a love like yours is contagious,
spreading like a wildfire when shared with honest and open hearts.
Grant us the strength to be bearers of that light.
In your holy and brilliant name we pray. **Amen.**

Optional moment of silence. Blow candles out at the start of the next part of worship.

Prayer after Communion

God of wind, rain, silence and flame —
We came to this table hungry;
hungry for a Pentecost experience

where you will fall down like rain
and we will know that we are yours.

We came to this table hungry
for the unity promised in the Pentecost story,
a unity that can bind us together
in a cord that is stronger than our differences.

We came to this table hungry for a glimpse of your kingdom,
so we should have known you'd be here.
For once again, you have met us at this table
with manna and mustard seeds,
with the bread of life and with vines and branches.

God of wind, rain, silence and flame,
when we go out into the world
and again find ourselves hungry for something better,
remind us of this meal.

Remind us how we came to this table hungry,
and how you met us in this ordinary bread and ordinary cup,
to claim us, bind our wandering hearts together,
and remind us of your coming day.

In your name we give praise, and in your name we pray. **Amen.**

Charge and Benediction

Now may you go from this service of worship with refreshed faith from that same Pentecost wind, warmed with hope from that same Pentecost flame, and reminded you are loved in language you understand, just as It was spoken by those same Pentecost tongues. And may the God who gives, Jesus, the one given, and the Spirit who gives us to one another go with you. **Amen.**