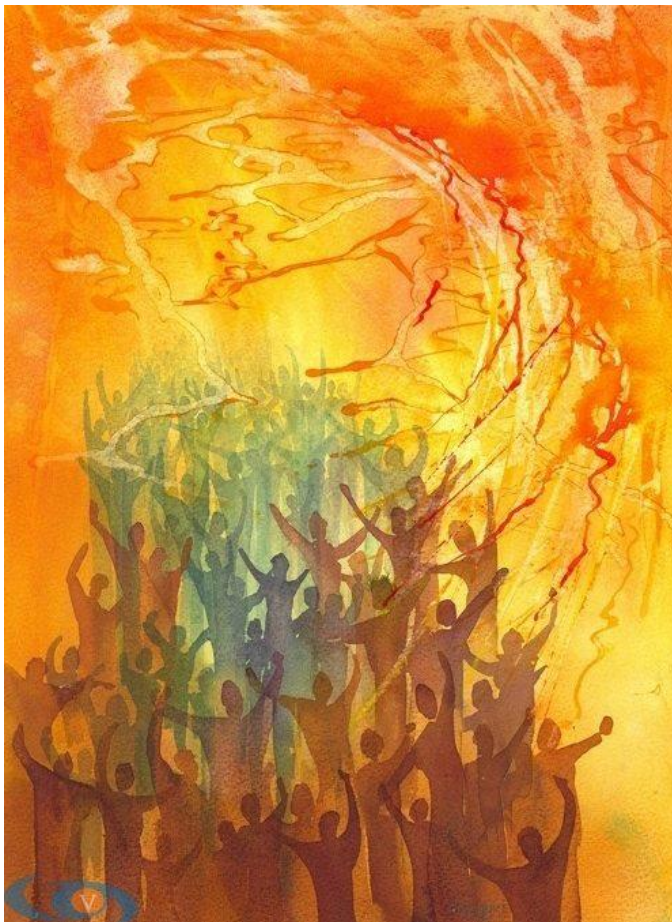


## The Animated, Extravagant and Flamboyant Spirit of God

Pentecost is the day when the animated, extravagant and flamboyant Spirit of God explodes out into the streets with violent winds and a blazing fire that descends and rests on each and every person regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, sex, gender, expression, gender-identity or sexual orientation.

Pentecost is the day when the animated, extravagant and flamboyant Spirit of God emboldens the People of God to prophesy, dream dreams, and see visions.

Pentecost is the day when the animated, extravagant and flamboyant Spirit of God blesses the church with a new and compassionate heart to be God's healings, miracles and marvels on earth.



### Acts 2: 1-11

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one room. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the entire house in in which they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, they all came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their native language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they said: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? 9 We are Parthians,

Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome - 11 both Jews and converts to Judaism - Cretans and Arabs too; we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own native tongues!"

## FOR REFLECTION

1. How do our differences as LGBTQ persons enrich the People of God? What strengths do we bring to our families, churches and communities as LGBTQ persons and allies?
2. Given the different “languages” we encounter and speak (literally and figuratively) how can we effectively communicate through our LGBTQ stories and lives so as to be heard? What could be some of the obstacles we face to good communication?
3. As an LGBTQ person or ally, how have you experienced the animated, extravagant and flamboyant Spirit of God? How has the same Spirit “driven you out into the streets” to fulfill God’s call for you? Does the intensity of this call frighten you or fire you up?
4. How can LGBTQ history, signs and prophetic witness serve as divine inspiration - that God continues to speak and work through LGBTQ persons and allies?
5. Since the Spirit of Pentecost reverses what happened at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11), where do you see God working to gather the fragments of a broken or alienated LGBTQ community to create a new, inclusive space? What remains to be done through the work of human hands?
6. Have there been events in LGBTQ history that almost seem “pentecostal” - where the wind and fire of God have brought about revolutionary and pioneering change? How have these events empowered and emboldened you? Do you have any experiences like this in your personal history?

## PRAYER

May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth  
so that the presence of God may be seen  
in a new light, in new places, in new ways.

May our own hearts burst into flame  
so that no obstacle, no matter how great,  
ever obstructs the message of the God within each of us.

May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart,  
to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully  
and to fan it to flame in others.

May the Jesus who filled women with his Holy Spirit  
fill the world and the church with new respect  
for women's power and presence.

Give me, Great God, a sense of the Breath of Spirit  
within me as I...

(state the intention in your own life at this time for which you are praying)

Amen.

[Pentecost Prayer](#) by Joan Chittister, OSB

