

Risen and Real: Resources for Intergenerational Worship

Confession Prayer Pentecost Year B May 20 2018



What this is: Confession Prayer with sensory option and music options



Where it's used: In any intergenerational gathering



Time: 4-7 minutes [intro 1.30+ prayer 2.30]



Bible focus/theme: Pentecost; Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:22-27



What's needed:

- Liturgy words displayed on screen, or printed copies for your gathering.
- Song: Rushing Wind (Keith Green) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNz_s7uV_uo
- Several tables easily accessible to various parts of your gathering, with trays with a thin covering of fine white sand.
- OR Several Tables with small blackboards, chalk and dusters
- Written instructions displayed on the tables

Confession

Introduction

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God came with the sound of a mighty rushing wind to a large number of people from many different places. There was no test to see if they were good enough, to see if they believed in Jesus, to see if they were mature and serious about their faith, to see if they had turned from their sins, to see if they were living good lives. As always, no matter who we are, the gifts of God are given in grace, not because we are good.

The Spirit prays for us when we don't know what to pray.

The Spirit helps us pray in our weakness.

The Spirit is spoken of sometimes as a mighty rushing wind - as in the Story in the book

of Acts, of the day of Pentecost we celebrate today.
And the Spirit is sometimes spoken of as a gentle breath, just a sigh, as in the Book of Romans which we will read today too.

As we come to our prayers of confession, we will invite the Spirit to help us.
Between the sections of our confessions, you are invited to breathe out, to make the sound of a gentle wind like this:

“fffffffffffffffffffffffff”

(demonstrate breathing out using an “f” sound - lasting about 3 seconds.)

Let's practice this breath.

“fffffffffffffffffffffffff”

Join in the responses in bold orange

Confession Prayers

Loving God,
You have poured out your Spirit upon us
You have poured out your power through us
But we ask now that you would pour out your forgiveness for us

“fffffffffffffffffffffffff”

We are your followers
But we have floundered and failed
And we have been fake and fearful
pour out your forgiveness for us

“fffffffffffffffffffffffff”

We are your followers
Though we have been foolish and fretful
And we have been fashioned by fear
pour out your forgiveness for us

“fffffffffffffffffffffffff”

We are your followers
But we have been furious at the frivolous
And we have fumbled opportunities for justice and generosity
pour out your forgiveness for us

“ffffffffffffffffffffff”

We are your followers

Yet we have forfeited our freedom

And formed false laws of force

pour out your forgiveness for us

“ffffffffffffffffffffff”

We are your followers

We have forgotten your faithfulness

And let our faith fizzle

pour out your forgiveness for us

“ffffffffffffffffffffff”

We are your followers

We have forsaken family and friends and foreigners

We have filled our lives with frenzied activity

pour out your forgiveness for us

Fffffffffffffff

We are your followers

We have fed our hearts with fantasies of power and superiority
over our foes

and frowned on the humble, simple, honest lives of resistance and

pour out your forgiveness for us

Bring us face to face with your mercy

Breath fresh grace and life among us.

“ffffffffffffffffffffff”

Amen

Music Option

- Teach the first verse and chorus of 'Rushing Wind' by Keith Green. As you do, highlight awareness of breathing in and out in the process of singing. (quite apart from the symbolism, good, free breathing improves the sound and ease and enjoyment of singing).

Sing this a few times between sets of confessions. Involve one person to lead the spoken prayers, another person to lead the “ffffffffffffff” exhalation, and a third to lead the singing.

Sensory option.

Draw attention to the tables set with trays of fine sand; or chalkboards, chalk and dusters.

Process for Sand

During the Prayers invite those who would like to write a word of confession in the sand (perhaps “sorry”, or one of the words beginning with F from the prayers that resonates, or make a picture or squiggle that holds the meaning of your confession).

Then after taking a moment to recognise that the spirit is present and forgiving, they blow gently across the surface of the sand, removing the word/picture.

Process for Chalkboards

During the Prayers invite those who would like to write a word of confession on the chalk boards (perhaps “sorry”, or one of the words beginning with F from the prayers that resonates. or make a picture or squiggle that holds the meaning of your confession).

Then after taking a moment to recognise that the spirit is present and forgiving, they use the duster to erase the chalk, and then blow gently across the surface of the chalkboard removing the chalk dust.



- Mark the board in some way representing your confession
- Wipe clean with duster
- Use your breath to blow off the dust, leaving the board clean again.