

*Continuing the Pentecost Vision*  
**Cross-Cultural/Intercultural Church Sunday**

(Trinity Sunday)

May 22, 2016

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The Merry Month of May! We welcome the end of winter (at least for most of us) and we celebrate God’s great re-creation. During the month of May, the Church celebrates the coming of the New Spirit on Pentecost and the Birthday of the Church on Sunday on May 15--do you feel the Breath of God as you enjoy the beauty in the great out doors!



**CELEBRATING PENTECOST**

*Cross-Cultural/Intercultural Sunday, May 22, follows Pentecost Sunday* with a great invitation to the Welcome Table of God’s Great Feast. We have received God’s Spirit in our time of fear just as the Disciples of the Living Christ did in their time. The beloved Teacher, Jesus, has ascended. They are hiding in the upper room wondering what to do next and fearful of arrest by the same Roman authorities that arrested and killed their leader. What will be their fate?



During this next 50 days after the Passover, the **Jewish Festival of Shavuot**, Festival of Weeks is celebrated. This festival is the day to bring the first fruits of the harvest to Jerusalem (Leviticus 23:15-21). Grapes, barley, pomegranates and figs were gathered and tied with a ribbon around the branch as a sign of God’s rich blessings of a good harvest. The crowds gather holding these branches up and parade into Jerusalem with music, songs and dancing. Great prayers of thanks are lifted up the God, who has watched over the family and crops during the past year.



During Shavuot, the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses is also acknowledged with the blowing of the Shofar, the ram’s horn. The sound of the Shofar represents the **transformation** from a slave people into the nation named Israel. Booths of the harvest were



raised and decorated like an arbor with fruits, greenery and flowers. Families camped out in Jerusalem for the week.

Read again at The Books of **Acts 1 and 2** to remind yourself what miracles also took place for the Disciples during this celebration. God's Spirit came upon everyone gathered and this Spirit created a new church from the old covenant with Israel.

***Our celebration of Cross-cultural and Intercultural Sunday*** continues this Great Day of the Birth Day of the new church---the one we now all belong to. This new church --or the New Way as it was called--begins a new chapter in spreading the Good News that God invites all peoples into the festival of the Welcome Table. We are invited to bring our best and first gifts to share with our church and the world. As the prophet Joel reminds us in Acts 2: the Spirit of God will be poured out on all: sons and daughters, old men and women, those in bondage and every one will be saved!



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## **CONTINUING THE CELEBRATION**

***Where to begin*** in continuing the celebration of Pentecost with this Cross-cultural/Intercultural Sunday on May 22?

***Start with the person sitting next to you*** as you worship. What is this person's heritage? Where do their people come from? Are there particular celebrations or traditions they still have at home? Has this person traveled to a different country? What did they see and learn? Did they bring back any special gifts—dress, ornaments, etc? Every church has different folks whose families may have traveled from another country. We all have a heritage we are proud of. If not, why not?

### ***Words and liturgy***

- If you are having folks with skills in **other languages** participate in worship leadership, make sure they rehearse their parts beforehand—helps everyone feel more comfortable in their leadership role. Looking up translations of scriptures in other languages is as close as your computer!! Look online for all the ways you could say “Come Holy Spirit” in many languages. If there are folks in your church or community that can help you with translation and/or pronunciation, this is a great way to make friends.
- There are many **worship helps** that have litanies for special Sundays including the PCUSA Worship Book and [PUCSA.org/worship](http://PUCSA.org/worship).



### ***Song***

- The ‘Gift of the Holy Spirit’ section in the new *Glory to God* hymnbook begins with hymn # 278 and goes through #294 (check p. 966 in the back of this hymnbook under Triune God for additional hymns) or in the blue *Presbyterian Hymnbook* #125 -140 (includes Trinity Sunday). Many of these



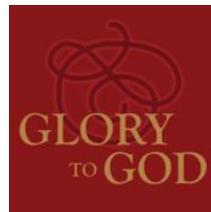
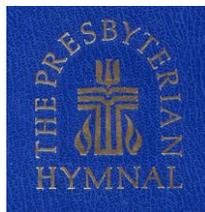
**hymns** are familiar already. Challenge your congregation or choir to try a new hymn---there are many new simple hymns that can be sung with the choir as they become the worship leaders.

- Two hymns are “Spirit of the Living God’ (#320, blue *Hymnbook*, #288 in *Glory to God*) and Halle, Halle (#591 in *Glory to God*).

Both of these hymns are delightfully done with **American Sign Language** hand signs---keep it simple. If you blessed to have a signer in your congregation ask that person to teach the signs and lead during the singing. Again, you can find [signs for words](#) on the internet. These hymns can be easily learned in the children’s classes or children’s choir with the hand signs. Then, the children can be worship leaders for these hymns in morning worship!



- If you have not looked through either the Blue PUCSA Hymnbook or the new *Glory to God*, please take time to find the many **hymns** available to us with **both English and another language** that represent the membership of the PCUSA!



**Scripture:** [The Lectionary Readings for May 22, 2016 include:](#)

Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31

Psalms 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15



- There are many **uplifting verses** in these readings that can be used in Call to Worship; Litanies for unity and mutual respect; texts for Preaching; and reaffirmation of God’s call for us to become children of the living God.
- **Additional Hymns** from the *Glory to God* Hymnbook: look in the back of hymnbooks to find the list of hymns that can be sung with specific scriptures. For example: #625 – “How Great Thou Art” is listed for Psalm 8:3. There are also many short hymns that can be used as coral responses,

coral introits, or choral response before the benediction. For example, #595-  
“Holy, Holy, Holy---Santo, Santo, Santo” can be sung in both English and  
Spanish.

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**WE ARE THE RAINBOW OF GOD’S GREAT AND GOOD CREATION!**

*Enjoy and find the challenge that Jesus gave us to ‘go into all the world’. The world lives in our community, our church has sent many missionaries overseas, our circles grow wider, and so we continue in the [Great Ends of the Church](#) to be neighbors one and all!!*



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