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# *Thanksgiving for the elements*

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The arrival of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was made tangible in the four elements of nature: **Air**, ‘a sound like the blowing of a violent wind’; **Fire**, ‘tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them’; **Earth**, ‘Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven’ and **Water**, ‘Those who accepted the message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.’

The following Prayers of Thanksgiving can be used in a creation-focused Pentecost celebration, indoors or outdoors. Perhaps you could ask children to collect items to represent each of the elements: a bowl of water, a pot of soil, a candle flame, and a bird’s feather to represent air?



# Air

We thank you, O God:  
for the great sky above us:  
the firmament and the atmosphere,  
complex and multilayered,  
reaching to the edge of outer space.

For the clouds that sail high in the heavens;  
for the rising and sinking of the air in the atmosphere across the globe;  
for the wings of the wind on which you walk  
and the breath of life that enlivens all things.  
For breeze and zephyr;  
Easterlies and Westerlies; trade winds, tropical wind and Polar air;  
For the mighty jet stream  
and its pathway across our planet.

We give thanks for the birds of the air:  
all the flying creatures and insects;  
for the song of the nightingale  
the cooing of the dove and the hooting of the owl:  
for all living things that sail on currents of air by day and by night.

We give thanks, O God,  
that you stretch out the heavens;  
that we see your power as mighty wind;  
we hear the whisper of your still, small voice  
and know your gentle presence,  
closer to us than breathing.

Breathe on us again, O Lord:  
fill us with your Spirit  
that we might trust in your leading  
and live as you intend on the Earth.

For your life within us and your voice to guide us: Thanks be to God!

*Bible links: Genesis 1:7-17; Psalm 19:1-2; Psalm 104; Psalm 147:8*

# Earth

We give thanks for the dry land you separated from the waters;  
the shapes and textures of seven great continents  
formed through fire and ice.

For land as ancient as time  
and newly made masses of earth.

For Earth's shell and the shifting tectonic plates,  
sliding across the molten mantle.

For the surface of our Earth  
Its great mountains reaching to the sky  
craggy and wild.

For the rolling hills and gorse-covered moorland.

For plateaux, pampas and rolling plain  
Ice sheets that sculpt the land beneath

For rock and stone;  
pebble and grit  
gravel, shingle and precious stones.

For coastal ranges, dizzying cliffs  
valleys and cwms.

We give thanks for the life that has come from the ground:  
for the trees and plants that grow from the rich earth;  
the roots and trunks that dig into the ground that supports their life  
the branches in which the birds of the air can rest  
and where animals find shelter.

For farmland, fertile crescents and fields  
crops that grow and ripen  
producing harvest for the world.

We give thanks that we are creatures of earth;  
that you created us from the dust,  
and breathed life into us.

We give thanks  
for the plentiful land into which the people of God were brought  
for the peace and security that is your intention for us;

for the building of homes where we can enjoy the fruits of our labour  
and rest beneath the vines.

For the renewal of the city  
and the sign of the kingdom that this reveals to us.

For the renewal of your creation;  
for the tree that stands at the end of time  
in the city of God,  
speaking to us of a new heaven and a new earth  
and your purpose for us and for all living things.  
For the breath that brings life from death:  
thanks be to God!

*Bible links: Genesis 1:11; Deuteronomy 26:9; Jeremiah 2:7; Ecclesiastes  
12:7; Matthew 13:31-32; Revelation 21:2*

## Water

We give thanks for your Spirit brooding over the waters of chaos;  
and for life emerging.

We give thanks for the oceans teeming with life  
the liquid surface of our big blue planet

Polar ice and lakes;  
rivers and streams carving pathways across the land;  
Loughs, canals, wetlands and lochs.

For the water we drink -  
fresh and cool.

For rain that waters the crops and gives life to plants and trees;  
For the water in which we swim;  
on which we sail;  
into which we dive.

For the treasures of that other underwater world:  
the coral and fish; the great whale and the shark;  
seal, narwal and walrus

For the streams that run through the land  
and all the creatures that live in them;  
Otter, Beaver and Dragonfly;  
Eel, Bream and Broach;  
Perch, Pike and Carp; Trout and Salmon:  
for all creatures that find life by fresh water.

For the great waters through which you led your people  
for the water from the rock as a sign of your blessing  
for the water of life we find in your presence:

priceless and satisfying  
thirst quenching and life giving.

For the water in which we are baptised;  
for the water of forgiveness and new life.

For water turned into wine;  
the healing pools and life giving wells;  
for the water of life from the side of Christ.

For the crystal river that runs through the heavenly city  
the water that flows for all eternity  
past the throne of your kingdom at the end of time  
bringing life and healing to all creation.

For water that cleanses, refreshes and makes whole:  
thanks be to God!

*Bible links:*

*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 43:20; Psalm 95; Psalm 104; Revelation 22:1-7*

## Fire

For the light of your word in Creation;  
For the great light of the day  
and the light of the moon to guide our nights;

For the stars that twinkle -  
bright points of light from far away.

For your call to Moses from the burning bush  
that burned but was not consumed;  
and for your voice speaking to us through the world around us.

For the angels of light  
the heavenly host of your fiery messengers  
revealing to us truths beyond our earthly knowing.  
For the pillar of fire that led the people of God  
in their wilderness wanderings.

For your word like fire  
In the mouths of the prophets  
and your word of love which burns in our lives  
bringing comfort and power  
and refining us like precious metal.

For your warming word in scripture  
for the promises that light our way  
and inspire us along the road.

For the tongues of fire at Pentecost  
and your Spirit resting upon us  
to reveal to us your presence.

For your call to live as children of light  
in this earthly life;  
and for the everlasting heavenly brightness  
Your glory over all the earth at the end of time  
into which we will be gathered.

For the comfort and challenge of light and fire  
thanks be to God!

*Bible links:*

*Exodus 13:21; 40:38; Zechariah 13:9; Jeremiah 23:29; Acts 2:1-15*

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