A Pentecost Act of Collective Worship

For Our Schools and Academies

To Launch "Faith Hope Love."

Prior to this Collective Worship, pupils could be asked to bring in cakes for sharing after the worship and they could be invited to wear something bright that is red, orange or yellow, to make a visual presence in the assembly. (This could also be an opportunity for a Pentecost Mufti Day.)

Resources:
A candle
Matches
Joyful music
Faith Hope Love prayer displayed in a 3 stage build up on IWB / large screen.
Reflective music, possibly with natural sounds of wind or waves in the background.
Red, orange and yellow balloons
Red, orange and yellow streamers
A large birthday cake with candles (not necessarily a real cake!)
A wrapped box to look like a birthday present (with “Faith Hope Love” prayer cards for pupils and staff inside.)
“Faith Hope Love” response cards, (enough for 2 per person.) (These are for use following this Collective Worship and so need to be given to the adults leading this part with classes of pupils.)

Act of Collective Worship.
As children enter, have joyful music playing and images showing connected with Pentecost, (ie. Fire, Wind, etc.)

Leader lights the candle to signify the beginning of the act of worship
Greeting: The Lord be with you.
Response: And also with you.

Leader welcomes everyone to this very special Collective Worship.

Leader: First of all we are going to say sorry to God for those times when we have done things wrong, when we have made mistakes and failed to live as He wants us to, when we have not lived as He wants his children to.
I am going to lead some prayers and everytime I say ‘Father forgive us,’ please say the response that comes after which is ‘Save us and help us.’

Father forgive us:
All: Save us and help us.

Leader: God our Father
We come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
And ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:
All:  **Save us and help us.**

Leader:  For behaving just as we wish,
Without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:
All:  **Save us and help us.**

Leader:  For failing you by what we do,
And think and say;
Father, forgive us:
All:  **Save us and help us.**

Leader:  For living as if we were ashamed
To belong to your Son:
Father, forgive us:
All:  **Save us and help us.**

Leader:  May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy
to serve him in the world,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
**Amen.**

All:  The Lord’s Prayer.

Leader briefly introduces ‘Colours of Day’ song and explains key lines.
**Song:**  ‘Colours of Day.’


Leader shares the idea of Pentecost.
Discuss that we are now in the church season of Pentecost and that this is the time when Christianity began, so we are celebrating the birthday of the Christian church and remembering the first ever Christians.
Discuss what is special about a birthday, how do people celebrate? Why do people celebrate?
Show large birthday cake and light the birthday candles.
Explain the meaning of Pentecost. Talk about the Holy Spirit as a gift from God to the world and that we have still got that gift today, it is an everlasting present.

Leader briefly introduces hymn ‘O Thou Who Camest From Above’ and explains key lines.
**Hymn:**  ‘O Thou who Camest from Above’

Leader explains that St. Paul teaches us that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are Faith, Hope and Love.
Tell the pupils that our bishop of our diocese, Bishop Christopher, has launched a ‘Call to Mission’ to all of us, everyone in the Diocese. Explain that this means that we are all being asked to think about our lives and how we help others, what we believe and trust in, what we hope for, how we show our love to others and how we become better people!
Pupils / Other Staff explore the word “Faith.”
This could be done with a drama or dance prepared by the pupils or pupils could read some poems or appropriate readings which explain “faith.”

(The first paragraph of the “Faith Hope Love” prayer should be displayed on the IWB / large screen so that all can read it together.)
Leader: Let us pray.
All: God of faith, deepen our faith
so we may bear witness to Christ in the world;

Pupils / Other staff explore the word “Hope.”
This could be done with a song or piece of music or pupils could read some poems or appropriate readings which explain hope.

(The second paragraph of the “Faith Hope Love” prayer should be added on display so that all can read it together.)
Leader: Let us pray
All: God of hope, strengthen our hope
so we may be signposts to your transforming presence;

Pupils / Other staff explore the term “Love”
This could be done with a reading of 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. (You may wish to unpack what this reading means with pupils.)

(The third paragraph of the “Faith Hope Love” prayer should be added on display so that all can read it together.)
Leader: Let us pray
All: God of love, kindle our love
so that, in a fragile and divided world,
we may be signs of the faith, hope, love
which we share in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Leader explains what the prayer means for the school community and how it can help each one of us in our journey of life.
Leader now introduces a time of quiet reflection where they invite everyone to think about the prayer, what the words mean and what we are asking God to help each 1 of us to try and be. During the quiet reflection time, peaceful reflective music, possibly with natural sounds of wind or waves in the background, can be played to aid this spiritual time.

Leader, at end of reflection time, shows the ‘Call to Mission’ response card, explains what it is and asks everyone to remember what they have been thinking about in the reflection and invites them to record it on 2 cards each after this Collective Worship.

Explain that everyone can keep 1 of their cards to help them remember what they are going to do in “Faith Hope Love” and that their other card is going to be collected in and used as part of a “Faith Hope Love” reflective display in the school, maybe displayed or put inside a special box / treasure chest. These will then serve as a help to the whole school community in their part in “Faith Hope Love” and give a flavour of how the whole school is responding.

(A short time therefore needs to be given for the school community to do this following the Collective Worship, during which time evidence of the impact of the worship may be seen and heard!) Leader briefly introduces hymn ‘O God of Burning, Cleansing Flame’ and explains key lines.

**Song:** ‘O God of Burning, Cleansing Flame’
Leader, acknowledging that Pentecost is a birthday, lights the birthday candles and everyone sings ‘Happy Birthday dear Church!’ (Streamers and balloons could be waved at this point if using them.)

Leader then explains that there is a present for all the school community which reminds us of the present of the Holy Spirit sent to us from God at the first ever Pentecost. They invite some pupils to open the present. Inside is a card of Bishop Christopher’s ‘Call to Mission’ Prayer for everyone to keep and use.

Leader explains that as a Pentecost present, every member of the school community will be given a personal copy of the prayer to keep and reflect upon.

All: **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Leader: **Sending Out:**
Keep the faith,
Keep the hope,
Keep the love.

All: **Response:**
May we walk in Faith,
May we walk in hope,
May we walk in love.

As children exit, have joyful celebratory music playing, leaving the prayer up on the IWB/large screen. Pupils and staff are given their copy of the Bishop’s prayer to take with them as they leave.

Following this Act of Pentecost Collective Worship, in classes pupils make their personal response and share the cakes that they have brought in to celebrate the birthday of the Christian church and the launch of “Faith Hope Love.”

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**Faith Hope Love - Prayer**

God of faith, deepen our faith so we may bear witness to Christ in the world;

God of hope, strengthen our hope so we may be signposts to your transforming presence;

God of love, kindle our love so that, in a fragile and divided world, we may be signs of the faith, hope, love which we share in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Supporting Christian Education