



# Eurovision and Pentecost

By Sharon Sampson

The Eurovision Song Contest 2021 will be the 65th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest. The contest is scheduled to take place in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, following the country's victory at the 2019 contest and the cancellation of the 2020 contest due to Covid-19.

## Introduction

### Decorating your space

Have flags of world nations and Eurovision logo on display in your space, as well as Pentecost banner and symbols and red/orange fabric. You might also want to display Bible verses about singing.

### What do Eurovision and Pentecost have in common?

<b>Eurovision Song Contest</b>	<b>First Pentecost</b> (briefly remind what happened)
Many nationalities, many languages and cultures will be represented there	Many nationalities, many languages and cultures were represented there
United by music, accessible to everyone.	United by Holy Spirit, accessible to everyone.
Music is a universal language, can be understood by all.	Disciples could be understood by all nationalities when they had received the Holy Spirit: 'They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages' (Acts 2:6).
Eurovision is available for everyone – if you wish to receive it, it is streamed all around the world.	The Holy Spirit is available for everyone – if you wish to receive it, it is streamed all around the world: 'While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his message... God had poured out his gift of the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles also' (Acts 10:43-45).

## Activities

**Prayer for the world** – Eurovision involves many countries of the world. Have a globe or map of world and list of participating countries. Pray for people in those countries. Write your prayers on small flags and stick on to the map/globe.

**Pentecost food** – Either make (and eat!) a Pentecost sundae (decorated with chocolate doves – see Pinterest) or decorate dove cakes (from *Edible Bible Crafts* book).

**‘He’s got the whole world in his hands’ collage** – Create individual tissue paper collages of the earth – blue and green – with paper hands holding it. Link to there being many countries taking part in Eurovision. Reminds us that God holds all the countries and people of the world in his hand, that he knows and loves us all and wants the best for us.

**Pentecost silhouettes** – Make a collage of people silhouettes, red/orange/yellow flames and dove(s), to display in an old picture frame. Talk about why flames, doves and wind are symbols of Pentecost.

**Make a microphone** – Create a microphone with a cardboard tube with a polystyrene ball on end. Cover the ball with foil/black paper and decorate the handle with coloured paper, stickers, etc. Use your microphone and show us your best singing! The singers in the Eurovision song contest use microphones to make their song clearly heard. Remind that the first disciples had to make their voices heard in Jerusalem at Pentecost so that they could tell everyone about Jesus. Jesus wants us to tell people about him too. How will we make ourselves heard?

**Fizzy stars** – The Eurovision logo for this year (2021) looks like an exploding star! Use bicarb and vinegar inside star-shaped cutters and watch the fizzy reaction bubbling up. Link to Holy Spirit bubbling up inside us and helping us to have courage.

**Star activity** – either use Star Scratch Art or decorate a wooden star keyring. We are all stars to God, who loves and cares for each one of us.

**Pentecost splatter painting** – Use red/orange/yellow paint in a salad spinner to create a swirly Pentecost painting. Just because it’s Messy and fun!

**Flags of the world** – choose one of the countries taking part in Eurovision and decorate their flag (A4-size white fabric flags and fabric paints/crayons, have chart showing different flags). Peg them outside on the line and watch how the wind blows them. Link to the coming of the Holy Spirit being like the wind. Ask God to send his Holy Spirit to the people of the country you have chosen.

**Messy-vision song contest** – Watch video clips of some great worship songs and vote for your favourite. Which one will be the Messy-vision winner for 2021? We’ll sing the winning song in our celebration worship time.

## Celebration

Display a Pentecost banner in picture frame during worship. Tell the story of Pentecost. You should easily be able to find a video of the story on YouTube.

Refer back to ideas in the introduction to bring themes together. Use some of prayers from the prayer activity above.

Sing the top-voted Messy-vision worship song (with microphones).

Finally... my favourite Bible verse for this Messy Church:

**'Sing unto him a new song. Play skilfully with a loud noise!'**

Psalm 33:3 (KJV)