

SUNDAY MAY 19TH

PENTECOST



READINGS:

Acts 2: 1-21

John 15:verses 26-16 verse 5

Creator God, be present
in our church and our community;
in our country and our world;
in every time and place;
and in every one of us.

Amen

The Holy Spirit poured out for all

The streets of Jerusalem were packed with Jews from all over the world, but the followers of Jesus were not out there among them. They were gathered all together in one house 🌿.

Suddenly: noise! It came from heaven and it sounded like a violent wind. Then there was fire! Tongues of flame appeared among the disciples and rested on each person in the house. Filled by the Holy Spirit, they each began to speak in languages they had never learned.

The crowds of people in the city heard the disciples. They heard the languages they were speaking and they understood what they were saying. They asked each other, 'How is this possible? We know these people are from Galilee 🌿, but every one of us can hear stories about God's power in our own native language.'

Everyone was amazed, but some people thought the disciples were drunk.

Peter stood up and in a loud voice he spoke to the crowds. 'These people are not drunk; it is still early in the morning. No, what you see and hear is what was promised, long ago, through the prophet Joel 🌿:

"God will pour the Holy Spirit on all people;
 sons and daughters will prophesy,
 young men will see visions,
 and old men will dream dreams.
 Even slaves will prophesy,
 both men and women.
 There will be signs of these days
 in heaven above and on earth below:
 Blood, fire and smoke.
 The sun shall be black
 and the moon red,
 before the Lord's great and glorious day.
 Everyone who turns to God will be saved."

It is likely that Jesus' followers feared the crowds after the events at Passover and were hiding together.

Galilee was where Jesus began his ministry. It was a small place and the people there would have been less well educated than those from Jerusalem.

Joel was a prophet in the Old Testament about 600-900 years before. Peter is saying that Joel's prophecy is coming true now.

Filled With the Holy Spirit

Hand each child an un-inflated balloon. Explain that they are to wait for instructions to see what they will do with their balloon. You will also need an uninflated round balloon.

As you see, we have some balloons today. You can have a lot of fun with a balloon. Have you seen those long, skinny ones that some people can make into the shape of different animals? Have you ever tried that? Hold up your balloon if you have a round one. I've played a game where we toss balloons up into the air to see how long we can keep it up without it hitting the ground. Look at the balloon I'm holding. I think it's a very nice balloon. It's a pretty colour, and by looking at the shape of it, I think it would be a very nice round balloon. There seems to be something lacking in the balloon. Can anyone tell me what this balloon needs? (Pause for children to answer.) You're right. It needs to be filled with air! Before a balloon can fulfil its purpose, someone must breathe some life into it.

I think this balloon can help us learn something about the church. Today is a very special day we call Pentecost. It was the day that God sent His Holy Spirit to breathe life into His church so the church would be all that God intended for it to be. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) Before God sent His Holy Spirit, the church was lifeless--like this balloon. The church was not witnessing and telling people about Jesus. After the Holy Spirit breathed life into the church, people began telling everyone they saw about Jesus. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) It didn't even matter if they spoke the same language. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) Everyone they told about Jesus understood what they were saying. Thousands of people were added to the church. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) The church became alive and was doing the things God had commanded. (Finish inflating the balloon and tie it off.)

Breathe life into your balloon, and remember that just as the balloon needs to be filled to be what it was intended to be, you and I need the Holy Spirit to fill us so we can be all that God wants us to be. (Allow children to inflate their balloons. Then help them tie off their balloons.) **Add a length of ribbon/wool/string so the balloon can safely be carried home.**

We thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit. We thank You for breathing life into the church and we thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to all who believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

You can also use an empty glove which needs something put into it to make it useful, or talk about a musical instrument which also needs air blown into it to make it able to play a tune – none of these things can work on its own including all of us. What do we need to make us work how God wants us to work – yes, the Holy Spirit.

You probably know what a windsock or kite needs to make it do what is wanted or needed. The windsock was invented many years ago in Japan and was flown on "Boys Day." Families would hang one windsock for each son in their family. You might've seen one at an airport, too. They show pilots which way the wind is blowing so they can take off and land safely. They're even used to help guide the Space Shuttle pilots.

No one can see the wind, but we know the wind is there because it moves the windsock. But just because we can't see the wind, that doesn't mean it's not important. The wind helps us cool off when we get hot; it cleans the air from smog; and it can even be used to power our homes. What other things can you think of that the wind does?

God's Spirit is a bit like the wind. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is very important and always with us. What is something else you can think of that you can't see but is still very important?

There are so many ways the Holy Spirit helps us every day. You might say, "He is the wind in your socks!"

- Sometimes when we're out and about we see people acting oddly. How does it make you feel?
- In the story, some people were amazed and others laughed. What do you think you would have done?
- Joel's prophecy about Pentecost talks about all kinds of strange things. Would you find those things exciting or a bit frightening? Why?

Using this image cut it out and make into a book mark. You can make a hole at the bottom for a piece of red, orange or yellow ribbon or wool.





Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)
Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)

O M D E D N W Q T H X X G E M
 U A Y N M H I B Q O O U K P Y
 W J U W E V B L V H N L O E O
 O O R I B A M O E E Z G Y N E
 S R N N C E G W T A T N U T I
 K P L D Y D M I R R Q J W E W
 M A N A E G L N O T H E R C S
 C U M L N R X G S L S Z Z O W
 V P L J H G S A H P P N H S X
 Y I C D Y N U M N P I Q D T U
 F P J G X K W A F X S R U R W
 T Z C B E X Y Z G S P S I Y B
 Z F I R E E G P E S E E T N T Q
 D E C L A R E D G E A C M K Y
 L S G F K V Z C V M K L N J T

FIRE	PENTECOST	WONDERS	AMAZED
HEAR	OTHER	SPEAK	WIND
SPIRIT	BLOWING	TONGUES	HOLY
DECLARE	LANGUAGE	SOUND	FILLED



Discuss: As a church, how do we try to share God's gifts with others, and where could we be doing a better job? Make a list

Flames headband Consider the gifts of the Holy Spirit

You will need: long pieces of paper/card, copies of the [Flames template](#), glues, tape, scissors, pens.

- Talk with the children about what gifts of the Spirit they have heard of, within the story and elsewhere. Ask which gifts they would like to experience?
- Give each child a long piece of paper as a headband, and a sheet of flames. Ask them to select flames to cut out, colour and glue to the headband. When they are satisfied, tape the headband so that it fits on their head.

Prayers

Holy Spirit, open our lips
and help us sing God's praise.
Let our song be alleluia.
Alleluia. Amen.

Loving God,
when your Spirit fills us,
we know what it is to live life to the full.
Forgive us for the damage
we have done to the world.
Help us all to live and care for your world.
Amen.

A prayer for others

Draw a large circle to symbolise the world.
Ask everyone to draw the people, animals and places
that they want to give thanks for today.
Talk about what everyone has drawn.
Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill the world.

Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit poured out for all

On the day of the Jewish festival of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples experience being filled dramatically with God's Holy Spirit. This power and life spills out into the whole of creation. Peter says that this is the culmination of many centuries of waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise, made known through Old Testament prophets.



Bible notes



The outpouring of God's Spirit promised by Jesus (Acts 1:5,8) in fulfilment of prophecy from Joel (2:28-32, quoted in Acts 2:17-21) to John the Baptist (Luke 3:16), takes place at Pentecost. The wind of God's presence fills them, and the fire is among them and upon them, as the Spirit writes the law on their hearts. God had promised, 'I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people... for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest' (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Similarly, Peter here describes what is happening with the words of Joel, affirming that the Spirit is being poured out on 'all flesh', female and male, young and old, slave and free. Pillars of cloud and fire led the people of Israel through the wilderness towards the Promised Land, but now the wind and fire of the Spirit empowers Jesus' apostles to witness to his resurrection, '...when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea... and to the ends of the earth' (1:8).

First impressions

- What does the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost mean to you? How does it impact your life?
- In what ways does your church building accommodate those with access needs?
- In what ways does your church community welcome all people? What could it do better?



Write

Send a text, or an email, to celebrate somebody at church who is often overlooked.

DRAW



How many languages can you say the word "Hello" in? Draw these on a poster-size piece of paper. Perhaps learn some new ones and add these to the poster and place it in your window.



Fly kites for Pentecost.
<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/resources/pentecost-kites/>
Extend the invitation to someone who would like to join in.

A prayer for others

Thank you, God,
for making us all different,
all special,
and all loved.
Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit
to help us to love other people.
Give us joy as we hope and dream about the future.
Amen.

LOOK



Challenge your household to take photographs of everyday objects and zoom in on a tiny part, or use the images from the loveFOOD website.
<https://www.lovefood.com/galleryextended/96384/can-you-guess-these-foods-from-their-extreme-closeups?page=2>

Can you guess the objects/foods?
Are we sometimes too close to events in our lives to see the bigger picture? How can we see as God sees?