

Children's liturgy – Pentecost Sunday (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: red

Props: Pictures showing the effects of strong wind, eg trees bending in the wind, a windmill, a sailing boat, a kite flying etc. Canes, pieces of cotton material, decorations to make flags.

Song suggestions: Spirit of the living God (666, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we are going to hear about the Holy Spirit. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and this gave them the courage to go out and tell everyone about Jesus. Let's think some more about the Holy Spirit today.

Opening prayer: Generous Lord, you give us your gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us to be inspired like the apostles to go out and do good work in your name. Amen.

First reading (optional – it links closely to the gospel and our reflection): Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because each one of them heard the believers speaking in his or her own language. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, "These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia, from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, both Jews and Gentiles converted to Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia – yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!"

Psalm: Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34 r 30

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings together.*

Gospel: John 20:19-23

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed

them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the gospel reading you heard today?

The disciples were scared of people they thought would hurt them and so they were hiding away. But when Jesus came, they rejoiced, and he gave them a very special gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What do you remember from the first reading today?

Suddenly the room that the disciples were sitting in is filled with the sound of a strong wind. Then the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit. They go outside to tell people about Jesus and everyone can understand them – even people from far away who speak a different language! How do you think this happens?

Why do you think Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the disciples? What difference do you think the Holy Spirit made to them?

We cannot see the Holy Spirit, like we can see each other. The Holy Spirit is like the wind. We cannot see the wind, but we can certainly feel it on a windy day. We can see the leaves moving in the trees because of the wind, or a kite flying high in the sky. The wind can be very strong and powerful.

Here you can show the children a picture of a tree bent over in a powerful wind, or a kite flying in the sky, or other pictures that show the wind.

Can you think of any other ways that you can see the wind? Can you think of ways in which the wind is helpful? *(eg windmills, sailing boats etc)*

Just like the wind, we can see the effects of the Holy Spirit. Can you think of how we might see the Holy Spirit moving in our world?

The Holy Spirit can work through us when we are kind to our family and friends, when we think about other people around the world, and when we work together with people who need our help. Can you think of the last time you did any of these things?

The Holy Spirit can also give us courage to speak out, just like the disciples in today's readings. Can you think of a time when it might be difficult to say what you really think?

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We can see that the world is not a very fair place. Many children do not have enough food to eat or clean water to drink. What do you think you could do about that?

During Lent this year, hundreds of children in England, Wales and Scotland took part in something called the Big Lent Walk. This meant walking loads of steps to raise money to help people in poor parts of the world.

These children love helping others and really did their best. This is an example of how the Holy Spirit can work through people like you and me, as we carry out Jesus' teaching in all that we do.

What will you do this week to show the effects of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Let's think about the courage and the change that the Holy Spirit can bring as we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit and have the courage to act for the good of all people and creation. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our brothers and sisters all over the world: that they may find hope and be able to change their lives for the better. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that the Holy Spirit may bring us the strength to make our world a fairer place for all people to live in. Lord, hear us...

Closing prayer: God of hope, send us your Spirit and fill us with courage and hope of a world where all people have the chance to live free from poverty. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to complete the accompanying activity sheet.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Encourage them to do at least one thing this week which will show the effect of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Suggest the children make flags and fly them to show the effects of the wind.

- Cut different shapes, eg rectangles and triangles out of the material (thin cotton or lining material) to make each child a flag.
- Invite the children to write or draw on the flag what they will do this week to show the Holy Spirit working in their lives or simply write one word that sums this up: kindness, love, caring, sharing, hope, courage etc
- Glue the material onto one end of the cane, rolling it so that there is a complete turn of the material.

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- If you have time you could take the flags outside to see if there is enough wind to make the flags fly.
- Hold the flags low to the ground and then up high to see if there is any change in the wind.
- Encourage the children to take their flags home. They can put their flags outside and see which direction they fly each day.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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