

FAITH @ HOME

Week of May 31, 2020

Pentecost

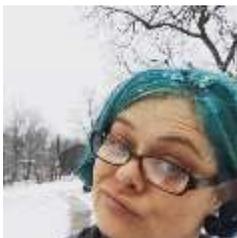
ADULT AND SMALL CHILD

READ: Acts 2:1-21

REFLECT: Today is the birthday of the Church! We tell the story of how the Holy Spirit came down and rested with the disciples. The Holy Spirit came down like a wind—a breath from Heaven—and it filled the disciples and everyone around them up with so much love. They were so filled with God’s holy love that they started telling the story of Jesus right in the middle of town, to anyone who would listen. God made it possible for them to hear and understand languages they didn’t know, so that they could tell even more people about Jesus’ love for us. The Holy Spirit comes to rest on us, too. At our baptism, we are sealed to the Holy Spirit—kind of like the way lipstick can stick to our cheek when someone kisses us, only we can never wash that kiss off. That means that the same Holy Spirit that came to help the disciples tell others about Jesus’ love—that same Holy Spirit—rests in and on you. Happy Birthday, Church!

RESPOND: Maybe today is a good day to send a letter to someone you love. You and your little can use a nice array of pens and fun paper to breathe a word of encouragement to a friend or family member. When you seal up the letter, remind your little one about the seal of the Holy Spirit, how it keeps us safe and makes us strong, and pray together for the person receiving your letter.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: RACHEL JONES



Rachel Jones is the associate editor for Forward Movement. She and her husband live on a farm with a dog, too many cats, several rabbits, and a flock of very opinionated chickens.

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ADULT AND ELEMENTARY

READ: Acts 2:1-21

REFLECT: My extended family is quite large. I have so many first cousins! On holidays, our house is packed with people. There are people watching sports in the living room, children playing games in the front hallway, and there are people in the kitchen and dining room! It can be difficult to hear because of the many conversations going on at once.

Our reading describes the day of Pentecost; this day is the birthday of the church! On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and fell on all of the people who were assembled together. God wants us to remember that we should gather together. The Holy Spirit dwells among us always.

RESPOND: Try to imagine the day of Pentecost by drawing a picture of the people that you love. Try to draw at least 3 people. Then using a red or an orange marker, draw a squiggly line above your loved ones. The squiggly line represents the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: IMANI DRISKELL



Imani Driskell is the Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. Michael's-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio. Imani was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and is a bagel and pizza enthusiast. She enjoys learning, teaching and speaking about Faith Formation. Her favorite novel is *The Living is Easy* by Dorothy West.

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ADULT AND YOUTH

READ: Acts 2:1-21

REFLECT: Pentecost is a day of celebration. This is when the disciples were able to go out into the world and tell the Good News of God and Jesus, and they were able to do this because of the Holy Spirit. Here, we see the Holy Spirit as “a rushing wind” and “tongues of fire.” The Holy Spirit descends on the disciples and gives them the ability to speak in various languages. This made it possible for them to spread the love of God and Jesus all over the world.

This seems crazy, right I mean, our reading even says that people thought the disciples were drunk, and the only explanation we get is “it’s too early for them to be drinking.” While probably a logical explanation, it does cause one to wonder. How can “wind” do that? However, when we look at the other instances of the Holy Spirit coming down, we see how powerful the Holy Spirit is. The Holy Spirit, one of the Trinity, was present in creation, as the breath that gave Adam life and wind above the waters. The Holy Spirit was present in the manna that fell from heaven to God’s people in the desert. The Holy Spirit came down like a dove at Jesus’ baptism, and the Holy Spirit continues to be with us today. The divine inspiration and mere strength given to us by the Holy Spirit is amazing and enough to make use rejoice. Celebrate the Holy Spirit this week as we celebrate the birth of the church!

RESPOND: The Holy Spirit is referred to as a rush of wind and brings the power to tell the whole world God’s Word. Take time to sit and breathe in the Holy Spirit. Take intentional, deep breaths. If it helps to focus, say these words: “Breathe in the Holy Spirit, Breathe out God’s Word.”

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: MAGGIE PAUL



Maggie Paul is the Assistant Director for Youth and Family Ministry at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, NC where she focuses on Middle School and relational ministry as well as curriculum. She previously served at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, GA where she developed and implemented a comprehensive Confirmation curriculum. She is very excited to bring aspects of this curriculum to her new parish. As an undergraduate with a passion for youth ministry, she served as a summer camp counselor and Episcopal student center “church mouse,” and she continues to use her gifts and talents as a singer and musician to nurture her own journey and inspire others on theirs.

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Pentecost

ADULT AND ADULT

READ: Acts 2:1-21

REFLECT: I'm sometimes a stickler for liturgical rubrics and rules. One of the occasional rubrics that is broken is when a deacon or priest adds an unexpected "Alleluia, alleluia" to the dismissal outside of the Easter season. When I'm in a context that does this, I'm often caught off guard by the joyous proclamation and I usually begrudgingly add an "Alleluia, alleluia" to the end of my "Thanks be to God."

And I miss out on joy. Because of my insistence on following rules, I forget that God isn't bound by our rules, that the Spirit moves and goes as the Spirit wants. And I forget that God is always doing a new thing and always bringing joy, even to the mundane parts of our lives.

That's what we see happening on the Day of Pentecost. God is doing something new, something wondrous, something that cannot be contained, something that goes outside the normal ways that people expect to experience God. The Spirit is poured out on the disciples and they are empowered to do things they could never have expected. And God continues to pour out God's Spirit on us, with unexpected alleluias.

RESPOND: Be intentional about finding joy this week, particularly in unexpected places. Take time during prayer or journaling time to note those moments that you experienced the Spirit's presence and any "unexpected alleluias."

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: CLAYTON HARRINGTON



Clayton Harrington is the Episcopal Campus Missioner at the University of Georgia. He is also the Rector's Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens, Georgia. In these roles, Clayton is passionate about the potential of Christian community, worship, and service to empower youth and young adults to grow into the people that God has made them to be. Clayton is a transitional deacon and will be ordained a priest in June 2020 in the Diocese of Atlanta.

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