



Pentecost at Home

Sunday, May 31, is Pentecost, a day in which we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Meaning “the fiftieth day,” as Christians we celebrate Pentecost on the 50th day after Easter. When we look at the big picture, we remember that this story comes after Jesus died, was risen, and then ascended into heaven. The apostles were a group of Jesus’ followers who had helped in his ministry, but when Jesus ascended they were confused and unsure of what to do next. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit entered the room, and after Peter preached, the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and then understood that they could continue Jesus’ ministry, devoting themselves to teaching and fellowship, and giving to others in need. Some people even call Pentecost the birthday of the church.

The people present at the original Pentecost felt a holy sense of unity, despite the differences between them. They spoke different languages and came from different places, but they all experienced the awe-inspiring presence of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is not just an ancient story, it is also a story about us and the ways that we are called to share in Jesus’ ministry. It reminds us of the gift of the Holy Spirit which sustains us, connects us, comforts us, empowers us, and guides us to live in the ways that God calls us to live.

Some of the symbols you might see on Pentecost or associated with the Holy Spirit are the color **red** or **flames**, that represents the fire that burns in our hearts when we are open to the Spirit and the tongues of fire in the Pentecost story; the **dove** which represents the Holy Spirit that descended like a dove at Jesus’ baptism; **wind** that represents the breath of God that breathes life into creation; and a **wild goose** which represents that the wild and free Holy Spirit cannot be contained or controlled. The many symbols of Pentecost remind us that the Holy Spirit takes many forms, speaks and moves in many ways, and offers unexpected gifts. As you consider celebrating Pentecost at home with some of the shared resources, may the Holy Spirit strengthen you and comfort you!

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Read: The story of Pentecost comes from Acts 2:1-21 and begins saying, “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Consider acting out or visualizing the story as you read it.

Think:

- What do you think the apostles in Acts must have felt when they experienced the ability to understand one another for the first time? How does the Holy Spirit help you connect to others today?
- Jesus also promised an advocate to be with us when he ascended into heaven, which is the Holy Spirit. Think of a time when you felt that Jesus was with you. How did you feel Jesus’ presence?
- The Holy Spirit also gives us many gifts and talents. What is one way you can use your gift/talent to share God’s love?

Act:

- Set your table or decorate the place where you spend a lot of family time with things that are red.
- Wear red on Pentecost Sunday.
- Choose one of the symbols of Pentecost to share among the people of your neighborhood. Create a representation of that symbol with supplies you have at home, such as markers, chalk, or flowers from your yard. Share that image by posting it on your door or in your yard, and/or on social media. How does it feel to share the Spirit with others?

Create:

Make a pin wheel with instructions found here: <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/simple-paper-pinwheel-craft-1250766>

Or make a found objects wind catcher like this one: <https://www.bonifasarts.org/found-object-wind-chime/>

Both of these crafts can help you see and hear the wind move, which is a wonderful reminder of the Holy Spirit. If you are able, stand outside and feel the wind. Imagine that wind as the Holy Spirit. How does that feel?

Pray: God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen. (From the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship)