

Collective worship – Pentecost

Welcome – We have gathered in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to worship together and think about Pentecost.

Happy Birthday!!! Today is the church's birthday! Not just our local church but all churches across the World. The world church means 'a community of people who believe in and follow Jesus Christ'. Pentecost is an important part of the church's year and often churches make a cake and share it to celebrate Pentecost.

Learning -

Picture of the People Church



It is the people of the church that are important and not just the building! A church building would be nothing without the people.

The festival of Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter and it marks the time when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. After Easter, the disciples were confused, frightened, and unsure about what the future held but then suddenly they were transformed when they were filled with the Holy Spirit and became bold, courageous and passionate about sharing the news of Jesus with others.

Many people became followers of Jesus after hearing the disciples preaching and seeing them perform signs and wonders. The church was born.

The colour of Pentecost is red because the Bible says that when the disciples received the Holy Spirit it looked as if tongues of fire were above their heads.

The disciples went out to tell others and groups of people began to meet together to worship God. They served one another too, in all kinds of helpful ways.

Listen to a description of the early churches from the Book of Acts in the Bible.
Acts 2 verses 44 - 47

All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their possessions with one another. They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

The people from the church served each other in lots of different ways. Can you remember some of them from the passage in the Bible?

- Shared belongings
- Sold property and possessions
- Distributed money according to need
- Shared food together.

Another story -

Everyone enjoyed Bill's company. He was so kind and so full of life. His eyes never seemed to stop smiling. He was that rare sort of man who always had the right word to say. It was almost as if he knew what was on your heart and mind. Yes, the great thing about Bill was that people could trust him and people did.

It was not surprising then that the news of his better job (a promotion), which would mean him moving along a long way away, came as a great sadness to all his friends. Of course they were pleased that his hard work had been recognised and rewarded. There was no doubt he had earned his new job; but even so, the thought of his going away from them was hard to take. Where would they be able to turn now for that encouraging smile and sympathetic listening ear? How would they cope without his good advice and thoughtful comments? He knew them all so well and they knew him. Friendship like his is hard to find. It was going to be a great loss.

Yes, everyone who knew Bill was not looking forward to his leaving and they all agreed that things could never be the same again. Of course he might write and there was always the phone and email but somehow that would be no substitute for the company of a man like Bill. You needed to be with him, to see him personally and to share things with him face to face. Pen and paper, telephone voice or Internet message were by comparison far too distant and cold.

If only he could stay. If only they could have him around all the time. If only somehow Bill could be with any of them, anywhere and anytime they needed him. That's what they wanted but of course it was a silly thought.

Reflecting -

I wonder whether you've ever been privileged enough to meet someone in your life like Bill? I wonder whether you have ever known someone who has made such an impact on you, because of his or her understanding and kindness - the sort of friend you just wouldn't want to lose? If you have, then you know how the disciples felt about Jesus. He'd been so special and so important to them that when it was time for him to go, they were really very lost and they longed that he might stay with them for ever.

What was a silly thought for Bill's friends, was however a real possibility for the disciples. Jesus had told them he would come back to them, to each one of them, and be with them wherever they went, forever. Just as Jesus had come down from God, so the Holy Spirit - God in a different, invisible form - was going to come down to each one of them and all this actually happened for them at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is a person - God coming in another form; Jesus coming back to be with them - and us - for ever.

Responding -

2000 years later the church is still reaching out in service to the World. The church cares for people and wants the good news about Jesus to be spread to everyone.

How can you serve the people in your community? What things could you do?

Pentecost prayer:

Lord Jesus,

When your Church was born, you blessed it with a special gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate Pentecost, may we continue to love others by joyfully serving those who are most in need, Fill us with your Spirit of love, we pray. Amen

Song for Pentecost : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMZQ3ZucTnc>

To watch the video follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTvyFHSxJbc>

A cartoon about Pentecost: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqG_lvZhU-A