



BACKGROUND

The day of Pentecost marks the fulfillment of all that Jesus accomplished in his passion, death and resurrection. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the 'Holy Trinity is fully revealed'. God's love is poured into our hearts and all those who believe in him can share in his Kingdom (CCC, 731-733).

In the book of Joel, the prophet writes, 'The days will come when I will give my Spirit to everyone' (Joel 2:28). Filled with the Holy Spirit, these are the words Peter begins with as he preaches to the crowd as he tells them about all Jesus has accomplished in God's great plan. Their eyes are opened and about 3000 are baptised that day.

But it didn't stop there! It was Pope Paul IV who said 'The Sacrament of Confirmation makes the grace of Pentecost perennial in the Church' (DCN, 1971). This reminds us that the same Spirit who came upon the disciples so long ago continues to be active in the Church and in each of us. Just as the disciples were changed at Pentecost, so too are we through Confirmation. In the Catechism it says:

"It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost (CCC. 1302).

Through Confirmation, we too are deeply rooted in our identity as children of God; we are more firmly united to Christ - our souls imprinted with an indelible spiritual mark - the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit; and we are empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live like Jesus did - to share the faith by word and action as his faithful witnesses (CCC. 1303).



INTRODUCTION

This meditation is done after the children have heard the story of Pentecost. It is important to create a peaceful, reflective atmosphere, to enable children to enter more fully into a meditation. You may like to play gentle instrumental music while children settle and in the background while you lead them through the meditation. If possible darken the room. The key part to this guided meditation is the repetition of a simple mantra, *Come Holy Spirit*. Children are encouraged to be sitting in a comfortable position, where they can see the candle.

To prepare to lead this meditation take some time to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide you.



THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - ACTS 2:1-17, 38-39, 41-42

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.

Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. They were excited and amazed, and said: Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done.

Everyone was excited and confused. Some of them even kept asking each other, "What does all this mean?" Others made fun of the Lord's followers and said, "They are drunk."

Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd: Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I have to say! You are wrong to think that these people are drunk. After all, it is only nine o'clock in the morning. But this is what God told the prophet Joel to say, "When the last days come, I will give my Spirit to everyone".

[Peter continued preaching to the crowd about all the things that Jesus had done. When they heard all that Peter had said they asked each other, 'what should we do?']

Peter said to them, "Turn to God and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children. It is for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live."



On that day about 3,000 believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together.



GUIDED MEDITATION

Leader

Sitting comfortably, I encourage you to look at the candle.

We have just shared the story of Pentecost from the Bible. It is a time of hope and celebration. As we sit here quietly, watch as I light the candle. Look at the flame of the candle as it flickers. Do you notice different colours as the flame dips and dances? Focus on the flame.

I invite you to close your eyes and notice your breathing. As you breathe in say to yourself 'Come Holy Spirit' and as you breathe out say to yourself 'Welcome Holy Spirit'.

God's spirit is here with us today and every day.

God's spirit has given us abilities and talents so that we can make the world a better and happier place. Think about what you are good at doing?

Thank God for the things you are good at.

We all have a voice. Your voice has the power to build people up or cut people down. You should always choose your words with love and care. God wants us to share our gifts with others. God's spirit, the spirit within each of us, will help you to do just that.

The world needs loving voices to tell good news, to heal, to comfort, and to speak for those who have no voice.

Tell yourself today that you are going to use your voice for goodness; for kindness; for gentleness; for patience; for love; for joy and for peace.

*Say those words to yourself as you focus on your breathing.
Goodness! Kindness! Gentleness! Patience! Love! Joy! Peace!*

*Say those words to yourself as you focus on your breathing.
Goodness! Kindness! Gentleness! Patience! Love! Joy! Peace!*

I invite you to open your eyes and repeat those words quietly to yourself as you focus on the flame.

Goodness! Kindness! Gentleness! Patience! Love! Joy! Peace!

God's spirit is here with us today and every day.

