

Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit poured out for all

On the day of the Jewish festival of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples experience being filled dramatically with God's Holy Spirit. This power and life spills out into the whole of creation. Peter says that this is the culmination of many centuries of waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise, made known through Old Testament prophets.



Bible notes



The outpouring of God's Spirit promised by Jesus (Acts 1:5,8) in fulfilment of prophecy from Joel (2:28-32, quoted in Acts 2:17-21) to John the Baptist (Luke 3:16), takes place at Pentecost. The wind of God's presence fills them, and the fire is among them and upon them, as the Spirit writes the law on their hearts. God had promised, 'I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people... for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest' (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Similarly, Peter here describes what is happening with the words of Joel, affirming that the Spirit is being poured out on 'all flesh', female and male, young and old, slave and free. Pillars of cloud and fire led the people of Israel through the wilderness towards the Promised Land, but now the wind and fire of the Spirit empowers Jesus' apostles to witness to his resurrection, '...when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea... and to the ends of the earth' (1:8).

First impressions

- What does the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost mean to you? How does it impact your life?
- In what ways does your church building accommodate those with access needs?
- In what ways does your church community welcome all people? What could it do better?



Write

Send a text, or an email, to celebrate somebody at church who is often overlooked.

DRAW



How many languages can you say the word 'Hello' in? Draw these on a poster-size piece of paper. Perhaps learn some new ones and add these to the poster and place it in your window.



Fly kites for Pentecost.
<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/resources/pentecost-kites/>
Extend the invitation to someone who would like to join in.

A prayer for others

Thank you, God,
for making us all different,
all special,
and all loved.
Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit
to help us to love other people.
Give us joy as we hope and dream about the future.
Amen.

LOOK



Challenge your household to take photographs of everyday objects and zoom in on a tiny part, or use the images from the loveFOOD website.
<https://www.lovefood.com/galleryextended/96384/can-you-guess-these-foods-from-their-extreme-closeups?page=2>

Can you guess the objects/foods?
Are we sometimes too close to events in our lives to see the bigger picture? How can we see as God sees?