

Year A, Week 24 (May 11, 2008)
Acts 2: 1-15, 32-33, 37-38, 41-42

Pentecost: God's Holy Spirit Comes

Hymn suggestions: *Father, I adore you (including Jesus and Spirit verses)*

Items Needed:

- crowd figures (maybe 5-6)
- disciple figures (maybe 5-6)
- table (can build out of blocks if we don't have one)
- piece of paper or cardboard to be the floor of the disciples' room (or build a room's outline out of blocks)
- optional (not supplied): red felt "tongues" for each disciple
- optional: Jerusalem city-scape

Portions based on *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman, found in the church office.

Directions: Create the disciples' room with the table in it. Place disciples around the table. Place Jerusalem cityscape nearby. Put crowd figures in a basket.

Today is the day of Pentecost, when we remember how God gave us the gift of his Holy Spirit so that God can always be with us. Through the Holy Spirit, we can do and say the wonderful things that Jesus did.

It happened after Jesus went away. The people of God were in Jerusalem to celebrate the great thanksgiving feast called Pentecost. They came to Jerusalem from every country. (*Place crowd figures near cityscape.*)

The disciples were in Jerusalem, too. (*Point to the disciples around a table in their "upper room"*).

They were still waiting for the gift that God promised to send, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly a sound like a mighty wind filled the whole room. (*Move your hand over the room like a swirling wind blowing.*)

And flames of fire came to rest on each of them like a tongue of fire (*either set down felt "tongues" on each figure or touch each disciple with your finger as if the flame were landing on each figure*).

The disciples became filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in foreign languages.

The crowds gathered in Jerusalem heard the disciples, and they heard them talking about Jesus and how he was raised from the dead. Even though the people came from all over the world, they each heard the disciples speaking in their own language.

People asked, “We come from all over the world, and these men come from Galilee! How can we understand them? What does this mean?”

Some people said, “These men must be drunk, and that’s why they’re babbling.”

But Peter stood before them and said, “Listen to me! We are not drunk – it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! You need to believe that we saw that God raised Jesus from the dead. And God has poured out the Holy Spirit on us.”

The crowd said, “What should we do?”

Peter told them, “You need to repent and change your ways. You need to be baptized in the name of Jesus. You will receive the Holy Spirit.”

Everyone who welcomed this message was baptized, about three thousand people. These new followers of Jesus came to be with the disciples to learn together, to live together, to eat together, and to pray together.

Questions without Response:

- I wonder ... what it felt like to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?
- I wonder ... if it was scary? Or exciting? Or confusing?
- I wonder ... how they knew it was the Holy Spirit?
- I wonder ... what those people did, now that they had the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- I wonder ... what it will be like when each of you chooses to be baptized and receives the Holy Spirit?
- I wonder ... what the Holy Spirit will help you to do in your lives?