



THE STORY OF PENTECOST

The story of Pentecost is very exciting but a bit bewildering too. The people in the crowd who heard the disciples speaking didn't know what to make of it at first. Imagine being in the crowd that day – how do you think you would have felt?

All of the activities for this Messy Church use things that you'll have at home or in the garden – or you'll be able to find alternatives. You won't need to go and buy anything as we want to keep you safe so that we can all bring COVID-19 under control and support our health services.

The story in the notes is taken from the Good News Bible* or you can use your own Bible. There's a special dramatic reading by Chris, also from Manningham Uniting Church. After the story there are lots of activities including Messy Science with Sharon and Messy Kitchen with Fee.

There'll be another Messy Church@Home in a few weeks' time – next time it's Jonah's turn.

All the best,

Fee, Sharon and Rev Claire

*if you are looking for a book of bible stories for your family, take a look at *The Barnabas Family Bible: 110 Bible stories for families to share* by Martyn Payne and Jane Butcher. Published by BRF in 2014, it includes some commentary, questions to talk about together and simple activities. Available in Australia through Koorong bookshop for \$24.99, link here

https://www.koorong.com/product/the-barnabas-family-bible-martyn-payne_9781841017136?ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.koorong.com%2Fsearch%2Fresults.jhtml%3Fw%3D*%26af%3Dauthor%253Amartynpayne

THE STORY OF PENTECOST

The story of Pentecost is taken from the book after the gospels called The Acts of the Apostles.

ACTS 2:1-12

“ On the day of Pentecost all the Jesus’ 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 in 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 the, 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?’

See the dramatic reading by Chris Mitchell here: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4258>



- **Something to think about and talk about first**

When the Holy Spirit came, we’re told that it was like tongues of fire that settled on each person present in the room. The fire didn’t burn or hurt anyone, it just settled and filled them with the inspiration to go out into the crowd and tell everyone about Jesus.

Sometimes we talk about having a ‘fire in my belly’ or ‘a burning desire’ which means we are really drawn to do something, to act. It might be a fire in my belly for social justice, or a burning desire to protest about something or show support and care for someone. It’s something we feel real passion for, we feel pushed to do something about.

Have you ever wondered where that push comes from? Although the windows may not have flown open with the wind, and although there may not have been any flames hovering over people’s heads, perhaps the Holy Spirit has been working inside of you to inspire you, just as she inspired those disciples.



At Home

ACTIVITIES

- Science with Sharon – FIRE!!



Very excited about this month with four HOT, HOT, HOT experiments, soooooo much science, you may wish to do in sections? They are all really simple and on the whole pretty safe BUT adult supervision is definitely a must this month. Hope you have as much fun as I did!!

If your tea bag is more successful than mine please film and share it with me shazz571@gmail.com otherwise check out this link after you have a go at it. NO SPOILERS!! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkkrXxJ4db8>

PS- A heads up for the next Science with Sharon. You will need a clear plastic bottle, clear oil=baby or hair (available at supermarkets) and blue food colouring.

Check out the Messy Science video here: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4258>

- **The Wait!**

The disciples gathered in the upper room to pray and await for God's sign which was promised by Jesus when he ascended to heaven.

The sign was the holy spirit but the disciples didn't know that. They had to trust Jesus completely and wait until the moment God's sign was revealed to them. So they gathered together and stayed together with the women and other followers of Jesus who created their little community. What happened next was amazing.

Let's stay here with waiting, just like the disciples waited. As they waited, they prayed.

What are we waiting for right now?

going back to school or work
to be able to see friends and family
to be able to earn money again
return to good health

for sport to begin again
for a vaccine
to find a job or contracts
return to 'normal' whatever that is going to be

Let's gather all these things in prayer:

God of grace and love,
You tell us to wait and so we wait.
We wait for your spirit to guide us just as the disciples waited so long ago.
Just as the disciples didn't know what to expect,
we don't know how you will come,
how you will make yourself known to us.
It might be through other people.
It might be through someone we have never met.
But help us to remain open and wait for you,
however you come, whenever you arrive.
Amen



At Home

THE ARRIVAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Imagine the Holy Spirit suddenly coming into the room, blowing open windows and doors, whirling round the people gathered there and settling on top of the heads of the disciples like a tongue of fire. Freaky, scary and totally weird!!! But what actually happened is that the disciples were totally inspired, filled with a desire to tell everyone about God's love.

- **Something to talk about**

Have you ever felt totally driven to do something? Have you ever felt that you have to do it or you don't know how you're going to cope?

It may have been something that seems really silly now looking back, like you just had to go to a party, or you had to get that particular hair cut or t-shirt, or matchbox car, or lego set.

The disciples, even though they were scared after Jesus died and then when he ascended into heaven and left them, they still had enough trust in Jesus that he wouldn't let them down.

God doesn't let us down. God is always present and always with us, even when it doesn't feel like it.

- **Flame headbands**

First take some paper and measure your head. You might need to staple several strips of paper to fit. Then cut out a tongue of fire, colour it in different reds, oranges and yellows like a flame and staple or stick it to the headband of paper. You have tongues of fire like the disciples!

I didn't have any red or orange card at home so I used some recycled card and coloured it with texta.



At Home



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- Stain glass flame template



Make Your own Stain Glass Fire Window!

For the Frame you will need-
2 x A4 sheets of paper to make the Frame
Sticky Taper
Glue Stick

For the Frame you
can use either-
Cellophane
Baking Paper
or Paper
Coloured Textas or Pencils

Cut strips of paper to assemble your frame.
Use taper or Glue to fasten. These can be big or small!
See what different shaped window frames you can make!

Cut or draw your flames and stick into frames!
I used a backing piece of paper but you could stick your frame
with the flames to an actual window and see the light shine through!



At Home



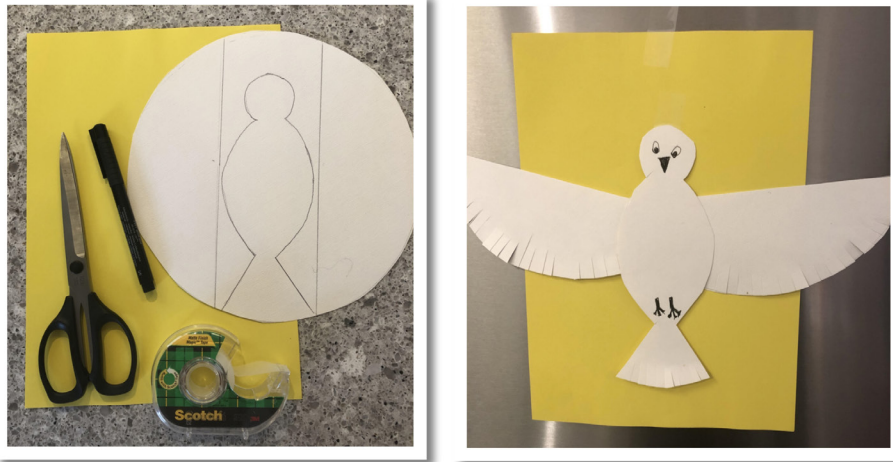
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- Dove

Sometimes the Holy Spirit is pictured like a dove, for example at the baptism of Jesus and on the United Church logo. Here's a simple dove craft made from a paper plate - <https://www.catholicicing.com/holy-spirit-craft-make-a-dove-from-a-paper-plate/>

You will need-
 Paper Plate or Cardboard Circle
 Sticky Tape
 Markers
 Scissors



Cut out your Dove pieces & stick together with Sticky Tape. I used white card and made cuts along the underside of the wings & on the tail Draw on your eyes, beak & feet.

When the Holy Spirit came, we're told that there was lots of noise, a "great noise" made by the Holy Spirit. Get noisemakers, ring bells, pop balloons, and make giant fans out of cardboard. Your goal is to get the neighbours to come out in the street to see what all the fuss is about, just like at the original Pentecost.

• **Make a great noise!**

Do you have littlies in the house that need to release some energy, an opportunity to get your teens out of their rooms or maybe it's time to challenge those social isolation barriers. This activity encourages you to make the "great noise" that the Holy Spirit made. Grab anything noisy from around your house: noisemakers, shakers, bells, pop balloons, pots and pans and make giant mega phones out of cardboard. See some ideas below.



Drums- empty containers and who isn't eating ice-cream at the moment!!

Mega horns-wrapping paper rolls work great or make your own

Shakers-use anything robust like rice, pasta, lentils etc

Your goal: Get the neighbours to come out in the street or kids out of their rooms to see what all the fuss is about, just like at the original Pentecost. Yeah, it's noisy. Yeah, the kids will be wound up. Yeah, it could be a little embarrassing. But one thing's for sure: They'll always remember sending the Easter season out with a bang.



At Home

WHAT THE DISCIPLES DID NEXT

After the roaring of the spirit, the disciples rushed out into the crowd who were in the city to celebrate a religious festival. They had come from all different parts speaking different languages but, as the disciples spoke, they all heard their own languages. How could that be? The holy spirit was at work so that everyone, no matter what language they spoke, could hear the message of God's love in their own language.

What will you do next? What do you think the holy spirit might be inspiring you to do or be?

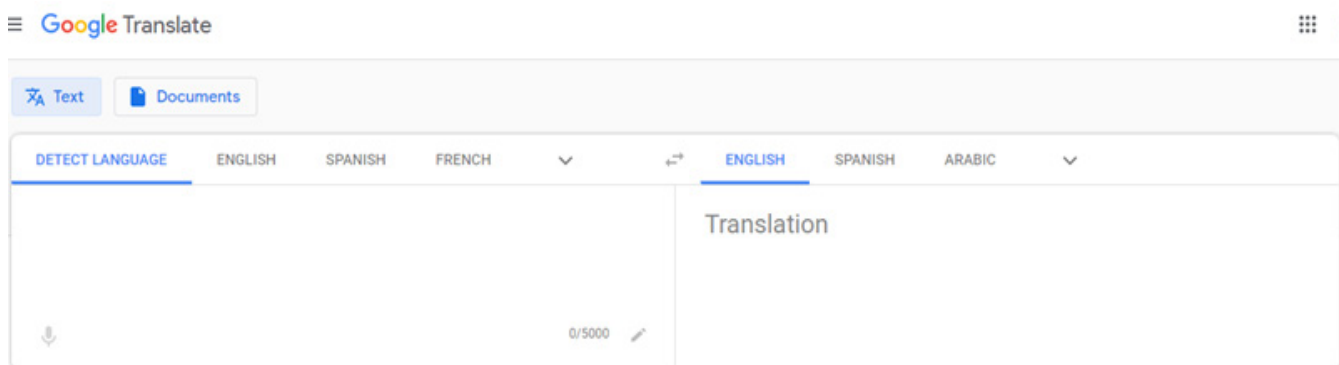
- **Lord's prayer**

Listen to the Lord's prayer in different languages – thank you to the members of Manningham Uniting Church for sharing their gifts. Check out manninghamuc.org/online on Sunday 31 May 2020.

- **Speak in many languages**

Look up the same phrase in as many languages as possible. You can use Google Translate, or any other language app you are familiar to translate a selected word, phrase or even short prayer significant to you. So it could be hope, peace, stay safe, look for the rainbows.

<https://translate.google.com/>



While you are doing it discuss significance of the Holy Spirit overcoming barriers of language.

What does that say about what God wants for us as a human race? About the Church?

Here is an example of 'Love one another': <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4258>

Play around with this activity for a while and even record and share your messages with the MUC community communications@manninghamuc.org



At Home

- **What is a church?**

The church is not the building but the people. The church is sometimes called the body of Christ – one body but lots of different parts. Look at your body with different limbs, organs, head and tendons. Everything has a reason for being there but they are all very different. Ears are to hear, eyes are to see, legs help us move and hands help us hold.

And just as every part of the body has a specific role so that the whole body works, so do we. Everyone has gifts that God has given to us to use for good in the world.

What are your gifts?

Can you draw a picture of yourself and then write or draw all the things you are good at, all the gifts God has given to you? And now think about how you can use those gifts to share God's love with others.

- **Messy Kitchen with honeycomb**

See the Messy Kitchen with Fee: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4258>

INGREDIENTS-

1 1/2 Cups of White Sugar
1/2 Cup Honey
1/3 Cup Water
2 Tablespoons Golden Syrup
2 Teaspoons Bicarbonate of Soda
200g Dark Chocolate

METHOD-

Line tray with baking paper

Combine sugar, honey, water & golden syrup in a medium saucepan.
Place over low heat & cook, stirring occasionally until sugar is dissolved (5-7min)

Increase heat to high & bring to the boil. Cook without stirring for 6 minutes
(154 degrees on a sugar thermometer) Remove from heat & set aside for bubbles to subside.

Add the bicarbonate of soda and quickly stir until combined. (mixture will bubble & foam)
Pour onto the tray and set aside to cool completely.

Melt chocolate in a heatproof bowl in the microwave in 20 second intervals, stirring
in between until smooth.

Break up honeycombe into large pieces & drizzle with the melted chocolate.
Allow to set & enjoy! Store in an airtight container.



At Home



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PRAYER TIME AT HOME

If you have a candle, put it in the middle of the table and light it to remind us that God's light always shines, that God's light shines in any darkness and will never be put out.

- **Prayer**

O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world,

enable us to be still and know that you are God.

O Lord who answers out of the whirlwind of everyday life,

breathe in us your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort, and guide us in the midst of the storm.

O still, small voice, speak to us now

that we might become makers of your peace

in our homes, in our communities, in our world.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

(adapted from a prayer from website. <http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html>)

- **Story of Pentecost**

Can you retell the story from what you have learnt during this messy church? You can always read it from the beginning!

- **Song** *Living for Heaven - Nathan Creek*

Sing along here: <http://manninghamuc.org/?p=4258>

- **Prayer**

If you made flame headbands or if you made a stain glass template, put them on the table now whilst someone leads this prayer. After you've shared this prayer, talk about what gifts the holy spirit has given to you:

Christ Jesus,
before ascending into heaven,
You promised to send the Holy Spirit
to Your apostles and disciples.

Grant that the same Spirit
may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love.

Grant us the Spirit of Fear of The Lord
that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You.

The Spirit of Piety
that we may find peace and fulfillment
in the service of God while serving others;

The Spirit of Fortitude
that we may bear our cross with You
and, with courage, overcome the obstacles
that interfere with our salvation;

The Spirit of Knowledge
that we may know You and know ourselves
and grow in holiness;

The Spirit of Understanding
to enlighten our minds
with the light of Your truth;

The Spirit of Counsel
that we may choose the surest way of doing Your will,
seeking first the Kingdom;

Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom
that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples
and animate us in every way with Your Spirit.

Amen.

(ChurchYear.net)

- **Blessing**

May you always know that you are loved by God,
that the holy spirit is within you,
and that Jesus calls you to follow his ways.

You are, and always will be, God's child,

Amen



At Home