



## Pentecost Devotional Activity

Week of 31 May 2020



### *Scripture:*

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:1-4)*

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 12-13)*

### Reflection

On the day of Pentecost (also known as the Festival of Weeks in the Jewish tradition), the disciples were waiting together in Jerusalem, as Jesus had instructed them at his ascension. In a most extraordinary way, the Holy Spirit's presence came upon them and breathed into them new life and purpose. Scripture offers us powerful and vibrant images to describe the ways the Holy Spirit's presence was made known to them at Pentecost, like tongues of fire that rested upon them; a mighty wind; and an ability to communicate and understand in a variety of diverse languages. In this moment, Pentecost took on a whole new meaning. The Holy Spirit emboldened and enabled the first disciples to bring the Good News of Christ into the world – and the church was born.

This same Holy Spirit is with us today, guiding us in our faith journey, comforting, encouraging, and challenging us; equipping and calling us for ministry; and upholding the community of faith in unity and diversity. The Holy Spirit is God presence and activity in our midst.

**This week we are invited to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that gave birth to the church.**

### Activity Suggestions:

Birthdays are a cause for celebration! What better way is there to celebrate this week than with some cake, decorations, and gifts? Here are a few suggestions to spark your imagination:

## **Bake a Birthday Cake – and Have a Party!**

Together as a family bake a cake (or cupcakes) and decorate as you would for the birthday of someone special. Consider flavor options such as “red velvet” or “strawberry rhubarb” in keeping with the color theme of red. Add candles if you wish, and sing “Happy Birthday.” Host a Zoom birthday party – or a socially-distanced gathering in a nearby park – with other Christian friends. Wear RED, as a symbol of the Holy Spirit’s presence in your life!

As you enjoy the cake together with family and/or friends, discuss the joys and blessings of being part of the Church (whether our church here in Geneva or any other church).

- *How is your own relationship to Jesus strengthened by your relationships with other Christians?*

The apostle Paul describes us as members of the Body of Christ, referring to the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives each one of us to share God’s love and to build up the church. Talk about the varied gifts that each of you has.

- *What do you think those parts of the body represent? (eg, the ears = a good listener, the hand = reaches out to others, the mouth = communicates well, etc)*
- *What “part of the body” are you?*

## **Create a Card for Someone Special**

Make a card for someone special in your life. Decorate the outside of the card, using as inspiration any of the images of Pentecost or the Holy Spirit. On the inside, write a note of love and encouragement.

## **Origami Peace Doves**

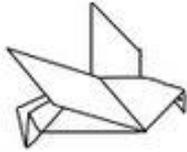
The Holy Spirit’s presence has been described in other parts of scripture as a dove descending from heaven. Make some paper origami doves using the instructions provided below. All that is needed is white paper. With some string attached, hang folded doves from a windowsill or doorway, to remind you of the Holy Spirit’s presence with you and your family. Make an additional dove to include in your greeting card, to remind the recipient of the Holy Spirit’s love with them, as well.

## **Sidewalk Messages of Love**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit include Love, Joy, Hope, and Peace. If allowable in your area, use sidewalk chalk to draw an image using any of these words of “Love” or “Joy” or “Hope” or “Peace” on the sidewalk of a neighbor’s home. Draw the word in other languages that you know, as well. The design can be very simple or more elaborate.



\*[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series)



# Origami Dove

To make a dove, use a small square of paper and fold along the dashed lines as shown.

