

Let anyone

Notes on the Bible readings

● Pentecost! To some it is the birth-day of the Church. It is the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, overflowing and pouring out over the gathered disciples who were then 'poured out' from their hiding place into the community around them, sharing God's story with confidence, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

● The miraculous power of the Holy Spirit brings the people together from their different tribes and nations. All are able to hear and understand the word of God. Here, the good news of Jesus becomes the invitation: 'let anyone'. Here, everyone can hear, understand and respond to this open invitation. There are echoes in the passage from Acts in the Gospel reading. In the latter, Jesus invites people to come to him. He will pour out water to anyone who thirsts for him, promising them the Holy Spirit. In Acts, the promise is delivered.

● Today, we too hear the story in a language we can understand; the promised pouring out of the Holy Spirit is for us too, when we respond to the same invitation. Like Peter and his companions, this must lead to us pouring out of our 'hiding places', and sharing the good news with those around us.

Water, wind and fire

Pentecost is a day (like Christmas and Easter) for the church to shout out. Using whatever resources you have, make a display or a poster for your window that proclaims the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in water, wind or fire - or any combination of them. During 'lockdown', there have been many examples of ways to make birthdays special - make the church's birthday special today!

FREE [worship at home](https://www.rootsontheweb.com) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: www.rootsontheweb.com

Questions for reflection

- ▶ Where might the water be flowing from, and to, in this image?
- ▶ Is the unifying power of the Spirit perceptible in your church life?
- ▶ ...and in your own life?



A prayer of approach

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord, that your sons and your daughters may hear your prophetic word.

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord, that your sons and your daughters may know how to live according to your ways.

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord, that your sons and your daughters may worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

A prayer for others

Holy Spirit of peace, we pray for homes and nations where there is discord and conflict. Pour out your breath of peace that people may listen to each other; may respect one another; may honour each other.

Holy Spirit of hope, we pray for those who live in despair; for those who can see no purpose in their lives; for those who cannot see a way ahead; for those who feel completely alone.

Holy Spirit of unity, we pray for your Church, for its ministry to the faithful; for its mission to the world. May the Spirit of Pentecost breathe upon us, that we may witness to the world the comfort, meaning and love that you offer.

Heal our differences and make us one in you. Amen.

A personal prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my home with peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my life with your power.

Amen.

Live your faith

Pay particular attention to how you use water this week, and think about how you might change your habits to conserve it more. Each time you use water, pray that God's Spirit might be like living water in your life.