

Sunday 19th May 2024

Pentecost



Today we celebrate Pentecost, when God's Holy Spirit came to the first Christians. Jesus's disciples had been waiting in Jerusalem, as he had told them to, and were blessed with the gifts of the Spirit which gave them the strength and the courage to become God's Church - Jesus's body on earth.

This is why we sometimes call Pentecost the Church's birthday - it was the day the Church was born!



Today we will think about our reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

We hear what happened on the first Pentecost, when the disciples saw, heard and felt strange things when the Spirit came. Wind and fire are metaphors. It does not say there WAS wind and fire but that something strange and mysterious and powerful happened. The only way people could describe what happened was to say it was LIKE wind and fire. Note that the important thing was not the wind or the flames, but that people knew for sure that God was with them in a very powerful way.

Knowing that gave the disciples (who were hiding out in fear) the courage to run into the streets and tell everyone they met about Jesus. Knowing that gives us the courage to follow Jesus today.

Jesus says that while he was alive on the earth, God was with people in him, but now that he has died and risen, God will be with them as the Holy Spirit. They will feel God's love burning in them and God's power will enable them to do amazing things.

So we still pray for the gifts of God's Holy Spirit to come to us today. Even though Jesus has ascended, God is still with us. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us power that enables us to do God's work on earth. God inspires us, gives us gifts (talents), and works through us. God has work for us to do! If we look around us, we can see people and churches doing this. Today we celebrate that with great joy!



Prayer for this week:

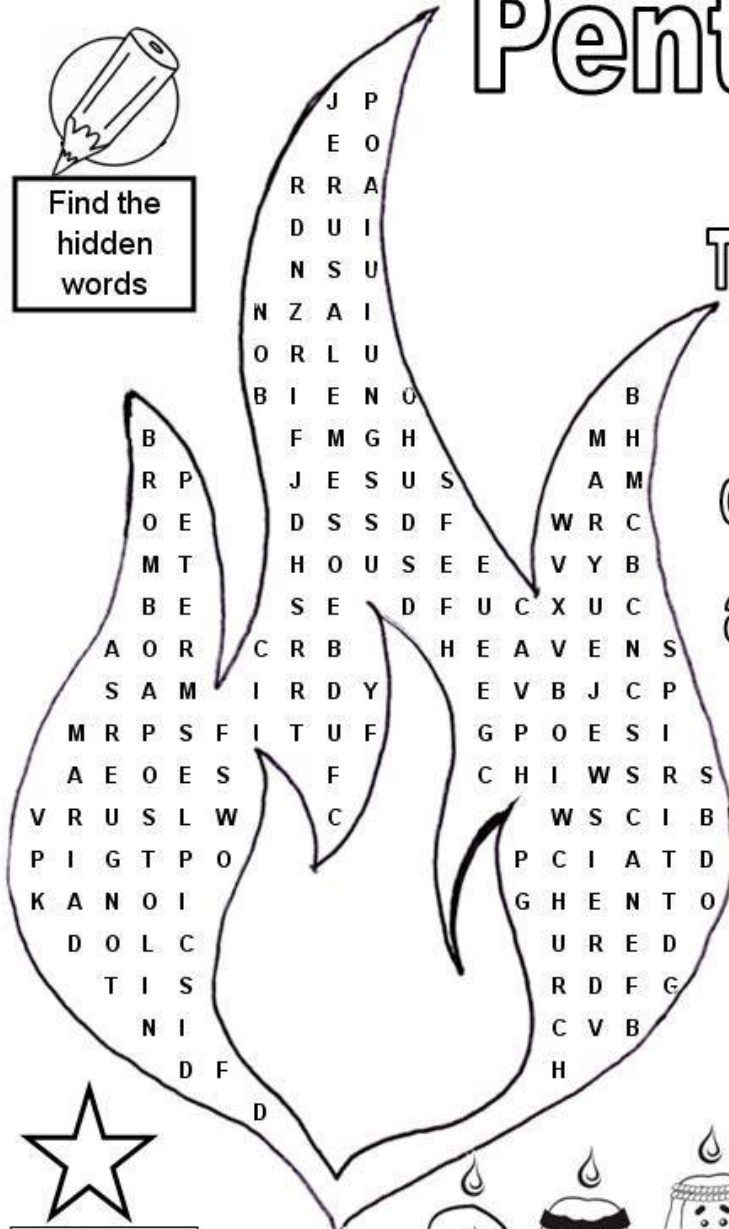
God of all, you sent your Spirit to be with the disciples, filling them with joy, peace and courage. May we also be filled with your Spirit, be brave and share your love in our world. Amen



Pentecost



Find the hidden words



Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

Acts 2:3



- Wind
- Heaven
- House
- Tongues
- Fire
- Spirit
- Jews
- Jerusalem
- Peter
- Jesus
- Wine
- Disciples
- Mary
- Church

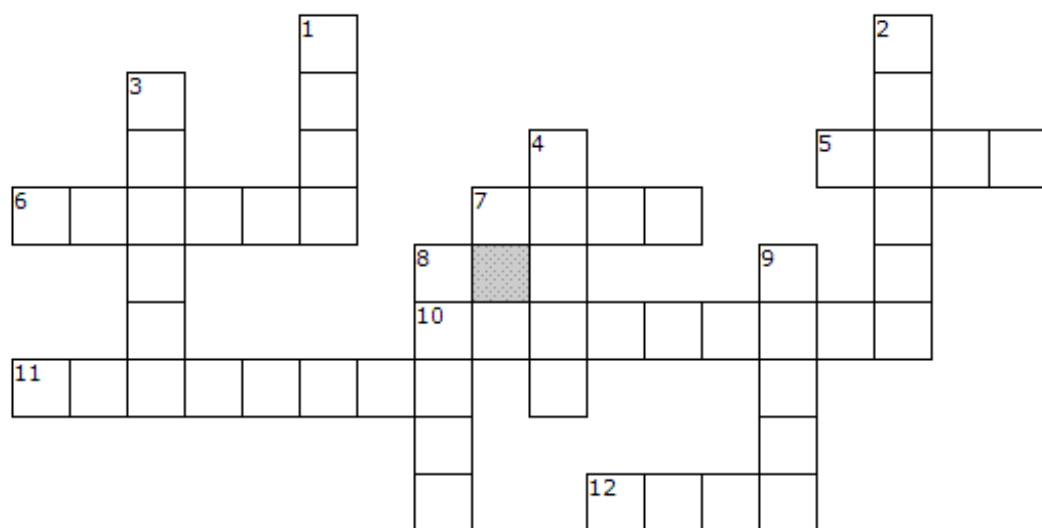


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Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. Make something to be full
6. To be totally surprised
7. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
10. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles
11. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
12. A destructive burning

DOWN

1. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
3. The place where God lives
4. Something that can be heard
8. To say words, to use the voice
9. A building which people live in

HEAVEN	SPIRIT	FIRE	HOLY
WIND	PENTECOST	LANGUAGE	SPEAK
SOUND	FILL	HOUSE	AMAZED

