

## Pentecost - a Zoom messy service with spiritual communion.

Acts 2.1-21    John 7.37-39    (1Cor 12 3-13)

We have seen the OKEA sketch which introduces the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who helps us with communication.

On Wednesday we shared quotes and sayings,

Norma's was "You never know the use of your well until it goes dry."

Today we are doing some thinking around water, as well as wind and fire.

We see Jesus in the Temple at the feast of tabernacles and he says.

"If anyone is thirsty let them come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the spirit whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

Remember in John ; Jesus after his resurrection breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit.

You will also remember the conversation he had with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

Jesus may have been thinking about the vision of the stream flooding out of the temple in Ezekiel 47. John himself will have a vision of the river of life flowing from God's throne in Revelation 27.

The disciples are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit – they are aware of the rushing wind –and the flames – commandeered by bishops for their mitres.)

All of them are filled with the Holy Spirit and on this occasion given a gift of speaking other languages. AS THE SPIRIT ENABLED THEM. They go out and all can understand their message.

(Do you remember the story of the tower of Babel? In some ways this redresses that.) It restores the channels of communication.

Peter remembers the promise in Joel "I will pour out my spirit on all people. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Paul says in the first letter to the Corinthians, “For we were all baptised by the one spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and were given the same Spirit to drink” 1 Cor 12. 13

Tom Wright comments “To invoke or invite the Holy Spirit then, is not simply to hope for a gentle nudge from time to time, a quiet sense that things are going to be all right after all, though that (thank God!) is often how the Spirit’s presence is known. It is to take the risk of having all that wild untameable energy sweep through us. The resulting transformation can be dramatic (which Christians of long standing can forget). But the rivers of living water have a purpose.

Don’t trivialise Pentecost. Think how the Spirit imagery works. Water, wind and fire are not tame. “

Tom Wright 12 months of Sundays year A

Let us give thanks for all the gifts and fruits of the Spirit; that enable us to share and care. (Gifts of IT, social media, caring, logistic, etc)

The Holy Spirit enables us to know Christ and make him known.

- Revd John Marshall