

# PENTECOST

---

## SHARE

Start by sharing if, when and how you have experienced the Holy Spirit.

## PRAY

Holy Spirit we welcome you. As we gather here today much like the disciples did all those years ago we open ourselves up to your teaching and long for more of you Lord.

## READ Acts 1:1-8

In order to prepare for this wonderful gift the disciples are given one instruction 'wait'. How do you find waiting and trusting God's timing? They aren't told how long or even what to expect in any detail. These are Jesus' last words immediately before he ascended. Try and put yourselves in the shoes of those disciples as they waited the next 10 days for the Holy Spirit to come.

## READ Acts 2 v1-13

At the start of chapter 2, we read 'When the day of Pentecost had come' – this is not just a date! Luke is telling his readers that the Spirit came when the time had been fulfilled, at the right moment, at the specified time. The believers had not prayed the Spirit down. In his Sovereignty, he had come at the exact moment He had planned.

Jerusalem was packed with pilgrims, from all over the Jewish diaspora, speaking many different languages. They had come to observe *Shavuot*, the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of seed sown in the fields (Exodus 23:16). They did not expect to meet Galileans speaking about God in their native tongue. And so, they asked, "What does this mean?". It meant the real harvest was beginning. By the end of the day around three thousand had joined the new community of believers in Christ (Acts 2:41).

*Lectio 365 app 28th May 2023*

Empowered by the Spirit, the first followers of Jesus were propelled out from their place of prayer to tell thousands about Jesus.

## CHALLENGE

How do you feel about sharing your faith? What gifts has God given you to enable you to do so?

Do you feel like you are stuck in a waiting room? Maybe you have asked God for something or feel you need something in order for you to share your faith with others? Fire and wind are powerful experiences of the holy spirit. Are there any experiences of the holy spirit the group shared at the start that have caught your attention? Shall we ask God for the Holy Spirit to come now and fill this room?

God, empower us with Your Spirit that we might engage with Your purpose and mission today! I pray for my church and for other churches in my community – send us Your Spirit of wisdom and boldness as we seek to share the good news of Jesus with those we meet.

*Lectio 365 app May 28th 2023*