

Sermon Pentecost 9th June 2019 8am, 9.30am Acts 2: 1 – 21 (adapted at 9.30am); John 14: 8 – 17, and 27 (ie not vv 25, 26 at 9.30am)

Lord Jesus, send your Spirit on us today and set us on fire with love for you. Amen.

- SEND ROUND PICTURES OF PEAS
- It's almost certainly the word which people crave more than any other. It's short. It's got 5 letters. It sounds a bit like a small round green vegetable that is often frozen with mint. What is it?
 - PEACE
- A dove is often a symbol of Peace. It is also the symbol of the Holy Spirit. LOOK AT DOVE COLLAGE
- Peace. It's almost certainly the word which people crave more than any other.
- Peace. It's what Jesus promised he was going to leave with us when he sent his Spirit.
 - *'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.'*
- But what does it mean? Here are three little mimes. Which one describes 'peace' best?
 - MIME GOING SHHHH!
 - Is that what Jesus meant. Did he want us all to be quiet?
 - I don't think so. The disciples on the day of Pentecost were certainly not quiet when they received the Holy Spirit.
 - MIME 2 PEOPLE FIGHTING AND THE OTHER BREAKING THEM UP
 - Is that an example of what Jesus was talking about?
 - Well, that might be a bit nearer. But peace is more than an absence of fighting. If XXX steps out of the way then these two still hate each other!
 - How about this?
 - MIME HANDS ON HEART, CONFIDENTLY WALKING UP AND DOWN AISLE
 - A feeling of being at one with yourself. At one with the world? At one with God?
- Perhaps now we're getting somewhere. Because that can still happen in the middle of warfare or in a noisy house. Not that anyone here lives in a noisy house, I'm quite sure.
 - As Jesus said, *'Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'*
- The disciples were frightened in the room where they'd gone after Jesus left and ascended into heaven. After all they were on their own. Jesus had enigmatically said he would send them an Advocate – his Holy Spirit, but he hadn't said when or how. And meanwhile they waited. It had been ten days since he'd left them. They were all in the room. I'm sure there would have been a certain tension. Lots of uncertainty A lack of peace!
 - The bible says they spent a lot of time praying together which is understandable. "Lord, here we are. What happens next? We're waiting!" Does that sound at all familiar?
- And then we had the wind! MAKE WIND NOISE
- The flames. The fire. PUT HAND ON HEAD TO MAKE FLAME
- LOOK AT FIRE COLLAGE
- And they all started talking. Talking so that anyone could understand. And I imagine a sudden sense of rightness. Of peace. Of direction. The Spirit of peace had arrived!
 - Peace in the midst of chaos!
- What was the result?
 - Well, they weren't frightened any more. *Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid* Although actually there was a lot more to be frightened about. But they knew the Spirit of Jesus was with them. It seemed to be in them!
 - They were on fire with the Good News and rushed outside still chattering away. Seemingly nothing could stop them. They were talking to everybody. To anybody. Old or Young. Jew or foreigner. And just as the bible prophesied, they were talking in ways people could understand. Ways in which you and I can understand.

- And what was it they were saying?
- Well they were saying, Jesus is alive. He's real and he's in the Kingdom of God
- They were saying death is only temporary. We will all be reunited with the people we love, and we know this because Jesus is there already getting a place ready for them and for us.
- They were saying the earth is valuable, because Jesus the human being is alive. Therefore take care of it.
- They were saying forgiveness is always possible. Jesus has won it for us from God. Therefore we can hold our head up and know that we are loved and lovable. God loves us so we must be ok.
- They were saying no need to be afraid, because God's Spirit is here. Jesus is still with us.
- If you're a Christian, God's Spirit is in you like he was in the disciples.
 - So who are you going to tell?
 - Who are you going to pray for?
 - Don't be afraid – Jesus is with you. You have nothing to be scared of! You have the Peace of Christ inside you.
- And if you have not yet welcomed Jesus into your life, why not make the decision today. And then come and tell me at the end! Receive the Peace of mind that he offers and know the Spirit of truth,.
- Whoever you are. Thank you for sharing our celebration today and may the Peace of God be yours. Amen.