



Busted Halo: Pentecost in 2 Minutes  
[youtu.be/J5tr4pqWlo4](https://youtu.be/J5tr4pqWlo4)

The Bible Project: Holy Spirit  
[youtu.be/oNNZO9i1Gjc](https://youtu.be/oNNZO9i1Gjc)

Trinity Wall Street: Pentecost Explained  
[youtu.be/AwC23vHvU5E](https://youtu.be/AwC23vHvU5E)

God's Story: Pentecost (For Kids!)  
[youtu.be/hKa9jqvJ378](https://youtu.be/hKa9jqvJ378)

DriveThru History: Pentecost  
[youtu.be/Vwz4Dqtj69w](https://youtu.be/Vwz4Dqtj69w)

The Bible Project: Acts 1-7  
[youtu.be/JQhkWmFJKnA](https://youtu.be/JQhkWmFJKnA)

# Pentecost

pen(t)əˌkɒst pen.te.cost  
noun - meaning "the fiftieth day."



The word "Pentecost" is used in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, it refers to Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks. It was an agricultural event, fifty days following Passover, that focused on the harvesting of first fruits.

The term is used in the New Testament to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching. This is why the readings are often offered in multiple languages.

In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is now the seventh Sunday after Easter. It emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. Some understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out of the church into the world or "the birthday of the church". The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church. The liturgical (church) color for the feast is red.

# Celebrating Pentecost at Home

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Pentecost was a pivotal moment in the life of the early church... and continues to be for us. Jesus made a promise that, while he could not always physically be with us, we would never be left alone. Those are important words to remember as we live in this season of separation and longing. The Holy Spirit who blew like wind and rested on the disciples like tongues of fire is the same Holy Spirit who blows in and through our lives each day. There is no such thing as "social isolation" for God. We are not alone. We will not be forgotten.

Pentecost is considered the birth of the church. It was the beginning of countless generations of faithful people sharing the message of Jesus with others so that they might live and grow in the Spirit. It begs the question - How are we called to spread the message and build a community of the faithful?

Open ourselves to the Spirit.

Share the story with others.

Invite others to share in the joy and power that a community grounded in Christ can offer.

Ideas on where to begin:

If you are going to share a story, you need to **KNOW the story**.

Spend time reading and meditating on the scripture - Acts of the Apostles 2:1-47 (New Testament)

**Stand in front of a fan.** Allow the wind to blow your skin, hair, and clothing. Enjoy the rush of the wind and invite the Holy Spirit to enter your heart. Imagine the wind is blowing away your doubt, fears, and disbelief in order to make space for the Holy Spirit to fill you with goodness and grace. You may also chose to tie ribbons to the fan cage in order to see the "wind" or "flames".

**Create a sidewalk encouragement for your community.** Write words of inspiration and then surround them with Pentecost images. A suggestion: "You are not alone." Painters' tape can help create crisp lines.

**Tie a red ribbon around your wrist.** Keep a small reminder of the flames of the Holy Spirit with you through the season of Pentecost (May 31- November 28, 2020). It is also reminiscent of the Chinese tradition that an invisible red thread binds us together.

**Light a candle.** The flames that rested on the head and shoulders of the disciples were not hot and did not hurt. They were warm with the peace of that comes from the knowledge and love of Jesus. Allow the light to illuminate the space and focus your attention. Sit quietly for just a few minutes. Reflect on the ways you have witnessed the moving of the Holy Spirit in your own life. Give thanks. This can also be done with others. Consider gathering around a fire pit to reflect and share with one another.

**Experiment with watercolors.** Images of fire, wind, and water are relatively easy to create using a basic set of watercolors. Allow for the fluid motion of the brush to remind you the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Another image for the Holy Spirit is a dove. **Take a moment to watch from your window or porch.** Do you seeing any birds?

**Try your hand at paper folding.**

Make a simple airplane or an origami dove. Let the airplane glide through your space or hang your dove somewhere to catch the light or breeze. A simple origami pattern can be found here:

[youtu.be/QpwezRCO0d8](https://youtu.be/QpwezRCO0d8)

**Wear something red.** Embody the power of the spirit by wearing the color most associated with the Holy Spirit. Tag the church in a picture of yourself on social media. Consider adding the hashtags "Pentecost" or "Episcopal".

**Decorate with red flowers, napkins, tablecloth, candle, or another item you have around your home.** Let the color remind you to pray for the Spirit to work in and through you during the season of Pentecost.



**Set your garden ablaze.** The Season of Pentecost encompasses the whole summer. Consider planting red, yellow, and orange flowers in your garden (or on the windowsill) as a reminder that Pentecost is more than just one day. It is the "growing" season of the church.

**Hang a set of windchimes.** Take time to stand near them at least once a day to hear how the wind makes them chime. If you do not have an outdoor space, hang a set anyway. Place them in a common space and brush them with your hand each time you pass. Don't have a set of windchimes? Create your own with household items such as silverware hanging from string or bottles hanging from twine on a branch of a tree.

**Learn a few new words.** Consider searching the internet for the words "Jesus", Holy Spirit", "wind", "love", and "new life" in three other languages. Commit them to memory and use them as focusing words for prayer and meditation.

**Bake something.** Pentecost is considered "the birthday of the church". Celebrate with something sweet - red velvet or strawberry shortcake.

**Fly a kite.** Let it be a reminder of how the wind lifts it up. Reflect on the how the wind of the Holy Spirit is lifting you up in different areas of your life.

**Make a few changes.** In the second chapter of Acts, Peter tells the assembly to "change your hearts and lives". What do you need to change? What are the intentions of your heart? How are you living your life. How might you grow deeper in your spiritual life? How might you improve your relationships? What might God to be calling you to do or be?