

Pentecost Celebration

We are coming to the end of the Easter season. At the beginning of the season we celebrated Easter, Jesus' rising from the dead or resurrection. At the end of the season we celebrate Pentecost, a celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit changes us and gives us special gifts.

Before he died and rose again, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit.

But now I am going to him who sent me...it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:5-7)

After his resurrection Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the "power from on high".

And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you; but you are clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)

Then Jesus ascended to the Father.

Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead the Day of Pentecost came.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

These are some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

*And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-3)

Jesus told us that we can ask for and receive these gifts.

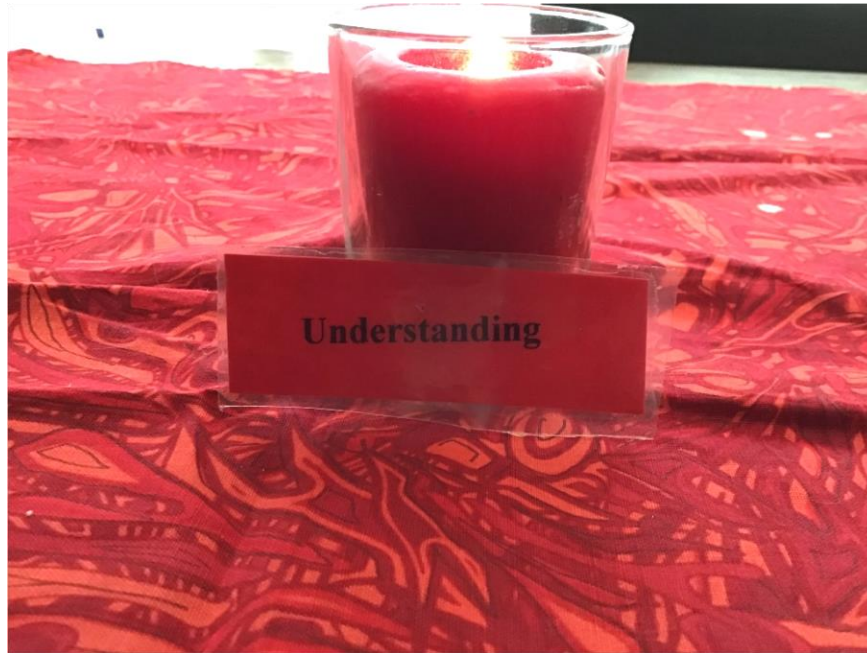
*Truly, truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father,
he will give it to you in my name.*

*Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your
joy may be full. (John 16:23-24)*

Definitions of the Gifts



Wisdom: To know with the head and the heart, a combination of
knowledge and understanding.



Understanding: To know the meaning of things and what is important.



Counsel: To be able to advise and help.



Might: To be strong for God, to not give up.



Knowledge: To have a deep inner knowing of something.



Fear of the Lord: To be in awe of God and respect his awesome power.



Delight: To be joyful in God's love and in everything God has made.



Isn't the light beautiful?

What did you hear about what happened on Pentecost?

What had Jesus told his disciples about this?

I wonder how these gifts helped the disciples spread the good news of Jesus?

What does he say to us?

Do mighty acts of God happen today? They may not come with a sound of rushing winds. They may be quiet. As you look around your world can you think of some?

When the candles are extinguished, do the gifts go away?

Read through the definitions of the gifts again. Which one would you really want to have? Ask God for this gift and use it this summer.