

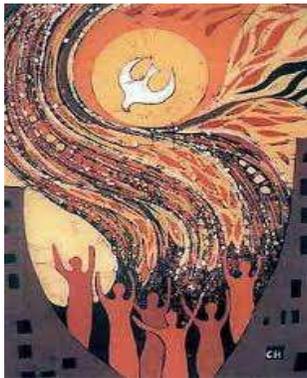


**Daily** Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation  
**Weekly** worship song, reflection and small group questions

## THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:

Lectionary year B – Easter to Pentecost – 4 April to 29 May

**Week 8:** Sunday 23 May – **PENTECOST – The work of the Holy Spirit**  
 Week 9: Sunday 30 May - Trinity Sunday – Jesus teaches Nicodemus



## WEEK 8: 23 MAY The work of the Holy Spirit

DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



### John 15:26-27

The work of the Holy Spirit

<sup>26</sup> ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you

have been with me from the beginning.

### John 16:4-15

<sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. <sup>12</sup> I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what

is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.

## WORSHIP

<https://youtu.be/BagH-zTfnsQ> "Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me"

## FOR REFLECTION:

### DAILY DEVOTIONS, REFLECTIONS AND SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY REV KAMOGELO MONOAMETSI

What sets the Christian community apart from other communities? What are distinctive features of being a Christian community, and followers of Christ? These questions help to reflect and apply our discerning spirit to the role of the Holy Spirit in the church. The role of the paraclete (Holy Spirit) in the life of the Christian community is important and indispensable. It cannot be ignored and overlooked because it has tremendous impact on the character, nature and shape of the church. It influences the missional intent of the church. Jesus recognizes the importance of the pouring of the Holy Spirit and that the disciples are not going to survive the world without being empowered with the Holy Spirit. Thus, it is important to respond to a question. What sets us apart from other communities? The Holy Spirit sets the church apart from all other communities, because the church is not only driven by theological tenets and doctrines but by the guidance of the Holy Spirit which when believers do not subject themselves to its authority, they suffer dire consequences. The church is unable to survive persecution of the world without the presence, power, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.



The Spirit is the great teacher of the church under the authority of Christ, it is crucial that Christ teachings are not lost in the process of its participation in the mission of God. What the church teaches is countercultural to what the world teaches therefore makes her a distinct community. Furthermore, the Spirit will guide the church in all truth to live truthfully in the world of lies. The church is called to proclaim and live out God's truth in the world where there is a prevalence of lies and seemingly many survive through them. The paraclete will guide the church into all truth which will set her aside from all other communities. By implication the world will be proven to be wrong, and its sin will be exposed so that God's truth can emerge. John's text is an invitation to all believers to subject the church's role under the authority of Christ and his Spirit particularly in the era where church's role is ambiguous and there is no clear distinction between church as the community of the Spirit and other social, and political communities. The Spirit is the source of love, fellowship, growth, justice and righteousness.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. In your daily activities, are you guided by the Holy Spirit? And how do you know when the Spirit guides you?
2. What do we know about the Spirit of Truth? How does it manifest itself?
3. What is your understanding of the following sentence? "He will prove to you that he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment"?
4. What are distinctive characteristics of a Spirit filled church?



**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Pray daily:** Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

**Scripture Reading:** \*[Acts 2:1-21](#)

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

**Activity/Family Moment:**

Pentecost Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to talk to children about the life changing power of the Holy Spirit. In John 14-18, Jesus promised that after He ascended, He would send His followers the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit would change everything! The Holy Spirit does a lot. The Holy Spirit helps us know Jesus deeper and guides us as we try to live for God's Glory.

Ask: How do you think the spirit guides us?

It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

**BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR**  
[jennyb@bmc.org.za](mailto:jennyb@bmc.org.za)

How do we know it is the Spirit? (The Holy Spirit is from God, so only good things can come from the Spirit. We all have our own unique way of knowing the Holy spirit. As we grow in our faith our relationship with the spirit grows too.)

Did you know that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts from God? These are different to our talents (like cooking, singing, playing soccer). If you would like to find out what you gift is follow the link

<https://storage.snappages.site/P75SHW/assets/files/5B-Spiritual-Gift-Survey-Scorecard.pdf>

(things to note; Pray before your start, there are no wrong answers, your answer should be the first thing that comes to mind. Do not over think it. No one gift is better than another)

START YOUR DAY WITH  
*Devotionals Daily*

- **Monday, May 24, 2021:** [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#); [Joel 2:18-29](#); [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#)

**Memory Verse:** Joel 2:23 "Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem! Rejoice in the LORD your God!

For the rain he sends demonstrates his faithfulness. Once more the autumn rains will come, as well as the rains of spring".

**Prayer:** God giver of life, sustainer of All and teacher of Truth. Teach us to be a church guided by your Spirit. Amen.

- **Tuesday, May 25, 2021:** [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#); [Genesis 11:1-9](#); [1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#)

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 104: 30 "When you give them your breath, life is created, and you renew the face of the earth"

**Prayer:** God of renewal, recreate in us new hearts, new minds and spirit. We desire to follow your teachings and live in accordance with the. Amen

- **Wednesday, May 26, 2021:** [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#); [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#); [John 20:19-23](#)

**Memory Verse:** Ezekiel 37: 9 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again."

**Prayer:** Trinitarian God of new life, breath on our broken lives and scattered pieces of our being, breath your spirit to restore our lives again.

- **Thursday, May 27, 2021:** [Psalm 29](#); [Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20](#); [Romans 8:1-8](#)

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 29: 9 "The voice of the LORD twists mighty oaks and strips the forests bare. In his Temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"

**Prayer:** Trinitarian God you speak, and creations listens, your roaring voice shakes the anchors of the earth. Teach us to hear your voice amidst many voices.

- **Friday, May 28, 2021:** [Psalm 29](#); [Isaiah 2:1-5](#); [Romans 8:9-11](#)

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:10 "And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God"

**Prayer:** Spirit of God our teacher, raise awareness that you are present within us. Sometimes we live our lives as those who are not guided by you.

- **Saturday, May 29, 2021:** [Psalm 29](#); [Isaiah 5:15-24](#); [John 15:18-20, 26-27](#)

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 5:16 "But the LORD of Heaven's Armies will be exalted by his justice. The holiness of God will be displayed by his righteousness"

**Prayer:** God of Justice and righteousness, in a world full of injustice we pray for awakening of conscience.