HEARTS @ HOME

A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday May 31, 2020 Day of Pentecost RCL: John 20:19-23

CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

+ **Red is the color for the Day of Pentecost**
  Find a scrap piece of red cloth, an old red shirt, a cloth napkin/towel, or even a piece of red construction paper and place it in the middle of your kitchen table or coffee table.

+ **Add a small bowl with water**
  This is a reminder of our baptism.

+ **Add a small candle to light as you worship**
  For households with little ones or apartments that don't allow wax candles, you could use a battery-operated candle, or a candle made from construction paper, if an open flame is not an option.

+ **Add a small cross to the space**
  This could be a cross from your wall, a necklace charm, or one made from paper or scrap wood.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

+ **Everyone and anyone who lives in your household can gather together.**
  Adults, children, college students, and even your pets!

SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

+ **Children/Youth could help lead different parts of your worship time**.
  They can set up the altar space, read the Bible story, share their own prayers, sing, or color.

+ **You can invite grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, friends, etc. to join you for worship using your phone, or Facetime/Skype or another video chat platform.**
  Feel free to email them this worship order so they can follow along, too!

+ **If you are a 1-person household** and are unable to call or video chat family or friends, perhaps you could write in a journal as a part of these worship experiences.

+ **Prepare a space that is most comfortable for you.**
  You can worship at your kitchen table, coffee table, on the rug in the kids' room, or in your sunroom surrounded by green plants and windows. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, or have a bowl of apple slices or snacks on hand! Worshipping at home gives you the opportunity to sit in your favorite chair or wrap up with your favorite blanket as you read God's word.

CREATIVE PRAYER IN YOUR HOME

+ **Create a prayer wall/box/basket for your weekly prayers**
  Use a dry erase board, post-it notes on a wall or fridge door, a bulletin board, or scraps of paper

+ **Coloring sheets** done during in-home worship time can become visual prayers (Page 5-7)

+ **Text prayers** and words of encouragement to loved ones. Snail mail notes & prayers are also great!

WORSHIP

+ GATHERING +

Together with God the creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the fire of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**.

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS [1] +

We do not stop enough to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit's movement among us. In the silence and stillness of this moment, let us draw near to God and listen.

We confess to you, Renewing Spirit, that we confuse unity with uniformity, and diversity with divisiveness. We speak and behave as if being a part of your family means assimilating others to our way of living. We deny and destroy the beauty you created in each person. We long to change these patterns, O Creator, but we do not know how. Teach us to value challenge. Help us to see strength in difference. And empower us to build your kingdom in creativity and love. **Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God's Spirit has been poured out upon all people, and we have been made one. We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up the kingdom on this earth. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

+ PRAYER +

God our helper, through the presence of your Holy Spirit you open our hearts to hear you and one another in ways that are powerful and challenging and hopeful. Please continue to guide us, inspire thoughtful words, kind actions, and fill our hearts with a persistence for justice and peace. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**, **Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23,**
+ **Spark Story Bible**: The Holy Spirit (Pages 502-503)
+ **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App**: Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

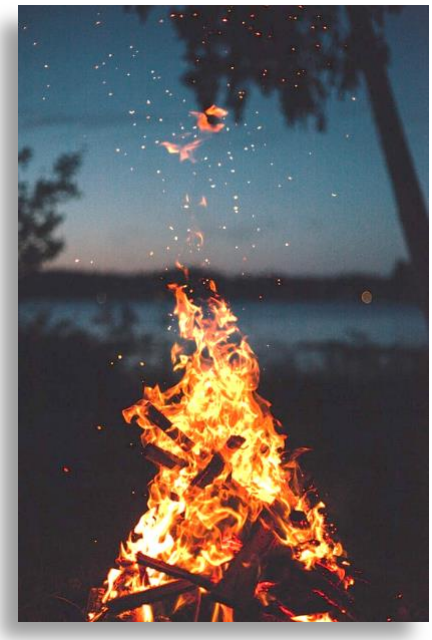
Option 1: Click on your congregation's weekly sermon video
Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection
Option 3: Use questions for reflection + Coloring Sheets (page 5-7)

Questions:

+ The Holy Spirit's presence with the disciples was likely a bit confusing at first. Think of a time when your faith confused you – what was that like? Did you find reassurance?
+ Why do you think it was important for the presence of different languages? How does language affect our faith?
+ Pentecost, or the "birthday" of the church, reminds us that early followers of Jesus were called to work hard and intentionally to share the gospel – describe what you think the early church looked like, sounded like, acted like.

WORSHIP

+ APOSTLES' CREED +



I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

+ PRAYERS +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

+ We pray for our congregations, councils, planning teams, rostered leaders, and members – as they continue to connect through adaptive faith practices, make careful and thoughtful decisions about ministry, and celebrate the body of Christ at work in the world. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ For medical professionals, emergency service workers and mental health professionals, that they be given endurance for their important work, continued wisdom to make important decisions, and the support they need to care for themselves and their families. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

+ During this Pentecost celebration of the church, where many voices come together in understanding and common purpose, we pray for all those who find themselves on the fringes, hungry, homeless, facing injustice, violence, or abuse, and those who simply struggle to find safety and inclusion, and we look to the love of Christ to guide our faith to serve these neighbors so that everyone can know the compassion of God. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ For farmers, gardeners, arborists, and horticulturalists, that they be granted ideal growing conditions, and adequate resources for preserving and caring for plants and crops of all kinds. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ We are grateful for our educational institutions, and we give thanks for the dedication of all teachers, administrators, and school staff. And for all the students who are celebrating their milestone of graduation, that they will know the love of Jesus Christ, and the support of their families, friends and communities as they look to the next phase in their lives. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

WORSHIP

+ LORD'S PRAYER +

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. **AMEN.**

+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, **"You are a beloved child of God."**
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

+ Have a "birthday party" for the church! Blow up balloons, make a cake, decorate your house with things that are red, sings songs or dance together, and celebrate the gift of the church.

+ Color, cut out, and display the flame activity (Page 5).

+ Enjoy some Sabbath time – including, but not limited to: a nap, reading a book, meditation/yoga, listening to music, doing a virtual tour of a museum, painting, taking a walk, or calling a trusted friend.

+ Have a bonfire together – talk about how the Holy Spirit is often refered to as a "flame" or "fire." Roast s'mores, tell stories & wonder about what the church used to look like, and what the church will look like in the future

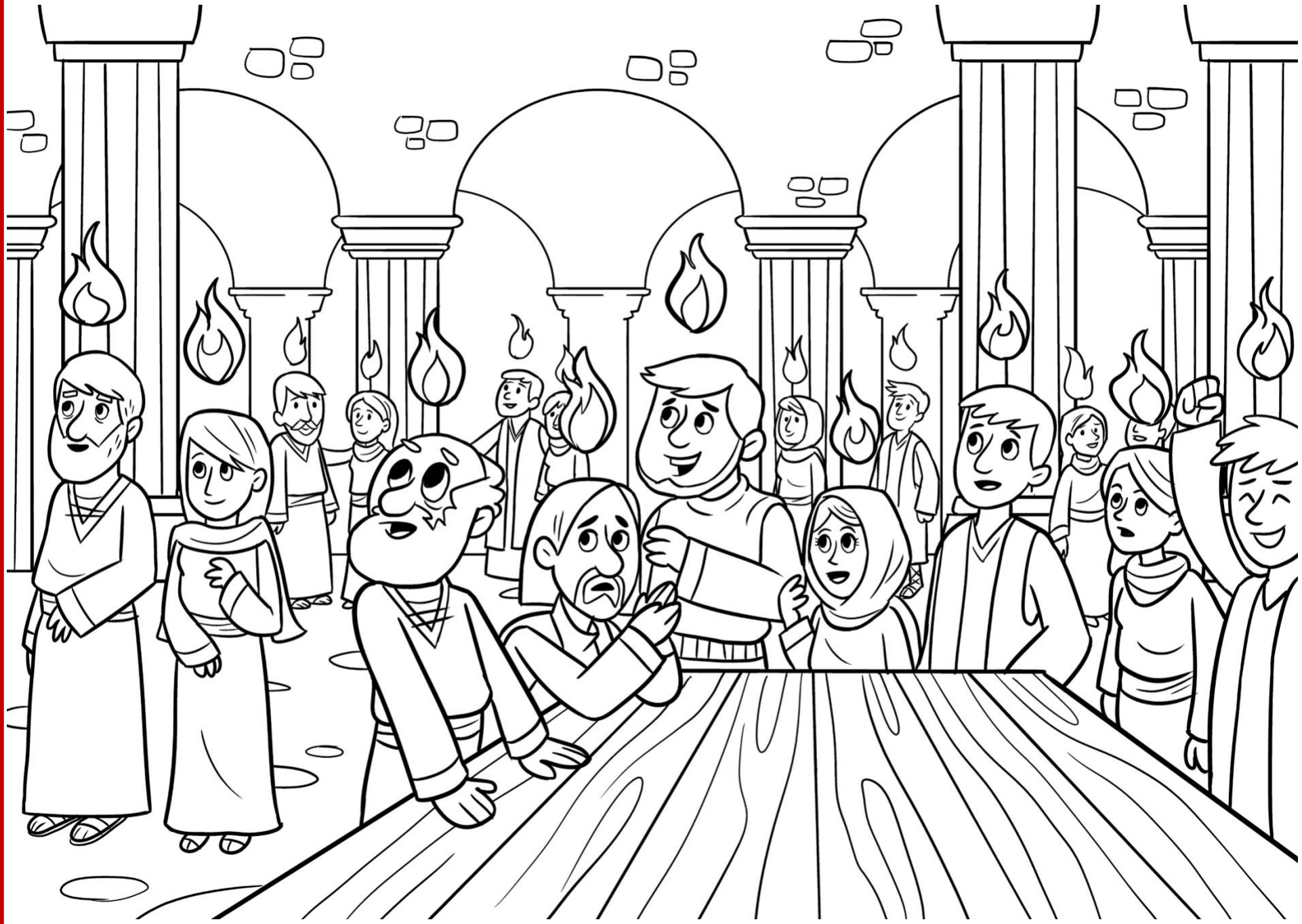
+ Perhaps some time for "holy creations":

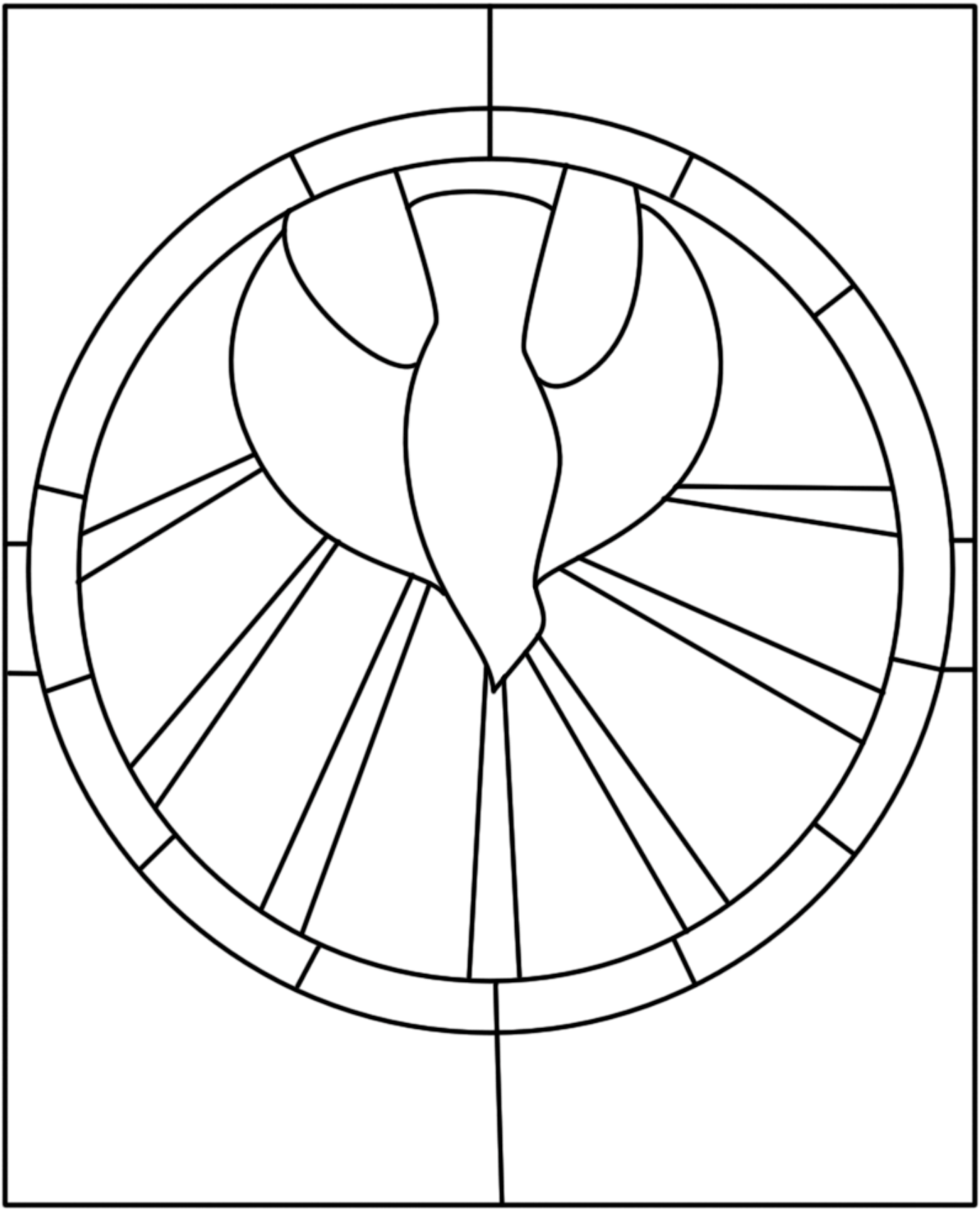
+ Try writing 'Jesus loves you' in different languages.
+ Create "bonfire" snack cups: muffin liner or cup with pretzel sticks (logs), small strips of cheese (flames), licorice bites (flames), marshmallows (flames). Or you could make popcorn and mix in red M&M's or another red candy.
+ Make a Pentecost pinwheel. Instructions here: https://www.catholicinspired.site/pentecost.html

+ Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S +

1 Confession from *Come, Let Us Build,* written by Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott. Posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* Archive. http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-sunday.html

© 2020 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved. illustratedministry.com





https://www.pinterest.com/pin/345862446373623506/