

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...

when Jesus...

was praying alone..." Luke 9:18



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

The Pentecost Yr A

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. The white Easter candle is placed on a stand. Red fabric could be wound around the candle stand.

Leader: Lord send out your Spirit (light the Easter candle)

All: And renew the face of the earth

Leader: Your works, O Lord, are many

All: The earth is full of your riches

We Listen: The Gospel. John 20: 19-23

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"In the evening of the first day of the week, Jesus came..." John 20:19

Commentary: In John's gospel, the Resurrection, coming of the Spirit and commissioning of the disciples, are on the one glorious day. Jesus had met Mary at the tomb 'early on the first day' and comes to the room where the disciples were hiding 'when it was evening on that day'. John's message could muck up the Easter Season with its series of feast days! There are even no details of the 'ascending to the father'! So, why the rush in John's story? From the disbelief, confusion and fear of the resurrection experience of the day, Jesus moves right into challenge. The way to overcome disbelief and worry, is to be re-assured and given a task. Jesus overcomes the barrier of the locked door, breaking down despair. He calms their fears by blessing them twice with peace, and missions them by the breath of the Spirit. But why doesn't John's gospel end at this point? Jesus continues to hang around, appearing, affirming, confirming. Maybe John's church community, having received the Spirit was still unsure of what to do about it. Are we like that?

The red cloth could be unwound from the candle stand and passed through the assembly as they reflect on the following statements.

Breathe in deeply of the Spirit of God, ever present, ever energising, ever peace-giving. If my baptism when I first received the Spirit is to mean anything, what lies ahead for me?

Song: Spirit Come (G Norbet-AOV1) or Spirit, Come Down (J Vogt/M Friedman-Spirit & Song)

We Go Forth:

God, life-giving Spirit and promise of life eternal. Help us to carry the peace of Christ within our hearts and, in simple trust, carry out the tasks of our baptism, to be your word in our world. We ask this through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

Leader: May our thoughts be pleasing to our God.... Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: May we find joy in the Lord... Alleluia! Alleluia!