

Cross Roads Camp Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter



Sunday, May 9, 2021
10:30 AM

CROSS  ROADS
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

May 9

Today's service is being provided by our church camp, Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center.

Cross Roads Fundraiser, 500 Gifts in May: Help Cross Roads recover from the effects of the pandemic and ensure its future ministry through a generous challenge for all gifts made in May. Each gift made by **May 31** will receive an **additional \$200** added to it, up to \$100,000! Click [here](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com/online-donation) (www.crossroadsretreat.com/online-donation) to give and for more information.

In-Person Services: Our next in-person outdoor service will be **May 16 at 5:00 PM**. On **May 23 at 8:30 AM** there will be an indoor service in Hinman Hall. These services will be offered biweekly and we ask that you RSVP. Masks are required for both indoor and outdoor services.

ASP Calendar Fundraiser for Youth Missions/Appalachia Service Project has ended. Total up your collection and write a check to St. John's with ASP on the memo line, or visit the church website to give online: Established Funds, Youth Missions, add donation amount and ASP to the comment box. Many thanks for participating in this virtual fundraiser!

We are now hiring a Communications Coordinator: For more information, contact Linda Mesenbrink at linda.mesenbrink@verizon.net.

Information Session for Flexible Seating: A final session will take place in person, **May 16 at 6:00 PM**, following the 5:00 PM Outdoor Service. Come to ask questions and offer feedback as the Congregation Council continues the process of discerning how to move forward.

Rally for Social Ministry: Help us support five of St. John's hunger and housing ministry partners. Beginning **May 23** for five weeks, we will raise at least \$1,000, supporting a different group each week. If the total goal of \$5000 is raised, the committee will make a \$500 donation. There will be a celebration rally after the 5:00 PM service on **June 27** with music, dancing, fellowship, sandwich-making for Bridges, and a food drive. Join us!

Save the Date for a Farewell & Godspeed for Margaret Sherman: Mark your calendars as we bid farewell to lifelong member Margaret Sherman on **June 6**. Details will follow soon.

HeartSaver First Aid/CPR/AED is being held at St. John's on **June 19 at 9:00 AM** to teach skills needed to recognize emergencies and give first aid. Contact Jane Bowman at janekay.b@comcast.net or 908-447-8865.

Bridges Outreach is currently doing runs into Newark seven days a week. The need is very great. They are happy to receive donations of lunches **daily from 8:30–4:30**. Lunches need to be taken to the Bridges office, call 908-273-0176 to inform them you are bringing lunches.

Zoom Children's Time, May 16 at 9:30 AM. Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86580617100>.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. Our last evening prayer will be **May 19**.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit or our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ. **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

We are so glad you are worshipping with us today on this Camp Sunday!

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the Three in One, we welcome you to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. First, let us use one of our camp confessions and then we will pray using words familiar to many of us.

WHISPER BOX CONFESSION

Let us pray. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: “Every Move I Make”

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God unheld by word or wall; power of love beyond all lords of war: lift us from dullness and cynical contempt; make us ready for your Spirit of transforming fire; and turn our hearts to the mending of the world; through Jesus Christ, the name above all names. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 10: 44–48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

SONG “Step by Step”

GOSPEL READING: John 15: 9–17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON

Anthony Briggs, Executive Director

APOSTLES’ CREED

Let us confess our faith first using the words of the Apostles’ Creed and then by singing together “I Believe, I Do Believe”:

**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.**

SUNG CREED “I Believe, I Do Believe”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the people and congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the New Jersey Synod, for Bishop Carlye Hughes and Bishop Tracie Bartholomew and for the entire Episcopal Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying and comfort the mourning. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sabbath God, we give thanks for time and places for relaxation, retreat, and renewal. Bless the ministry of Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. Strengthen the staff, bless Anthony, the Executive Director, and surround all the Cross Roads family in your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Thank you for your support of your local congregation as well as Cross Roads. For more information on how to give online, visit www.crossroadsretreat.com/online-donation.

OFFERTORY SONG "Sanctuary"

BLESSING

May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes, the love of God be reflected in your hands, the wisdom of God be reflected in your words, and the knowledge of God flow from your heart, so that all might see, and in seeing, believe. **Amen.**

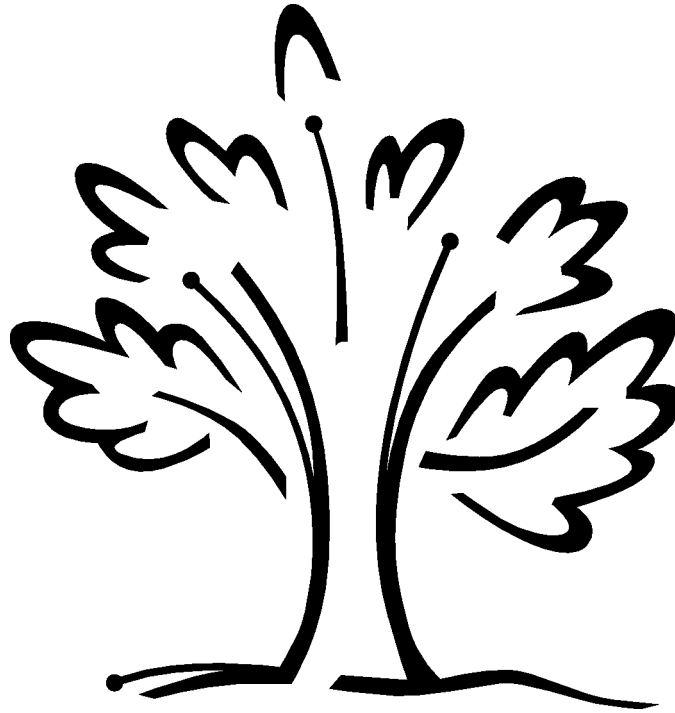
SENDING SONG "Firm Foundation"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God and we will!**

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a welcoming and inclusive community providing life changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy. Cross Roads is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the New Jersey Synod of the ELCA, and accredited by the American Camp Association.

To learn more about Cross Roads, visit www.crossroadsretreat.com.



**Ministers: The People of St. John's
Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

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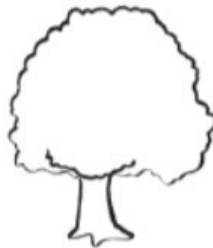
PRE-READER

Easter 6

- Today is the **6th week** in Easter.
- The Easter season is **50 days** long.
- Easter is a time to **celebrate** new life and new beginnings.

God sent the Holy Spirit down from heaven to live in our hearts! The Holy Spirit reflects God's love.

Can you see the Holy Spirit? Three of the symbols below represent the Holy Spirit. Color them in.

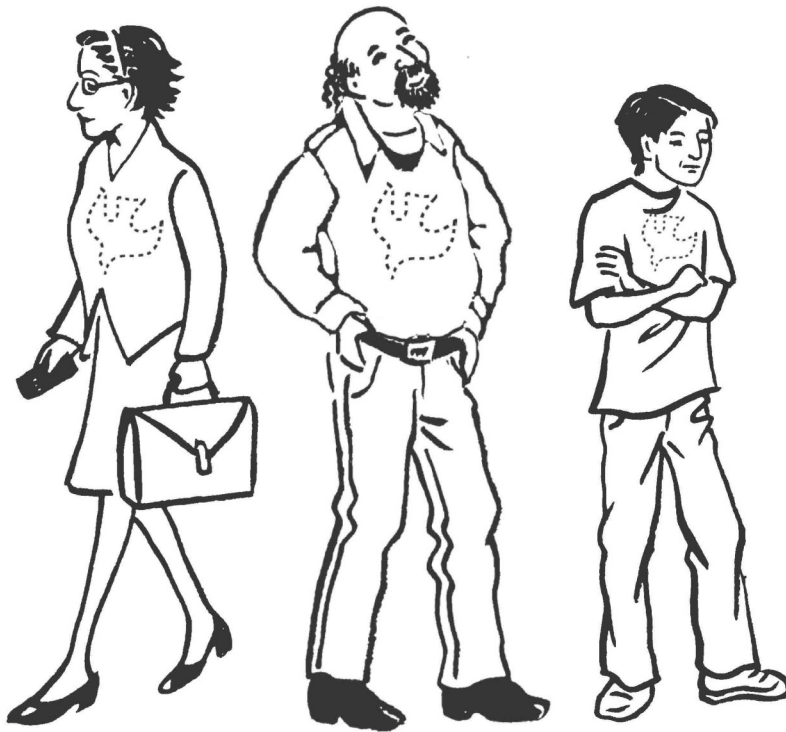




The Holy Spirit came flying down from heaven! It was a gift from God, sent into the hearts of all the people in the crowd.

God sent the Holy Spirit because God loves us. The Spirit lives in each of us!

Draw the Holy Spirit inside each of the people below. Don't forget to draw yourself!

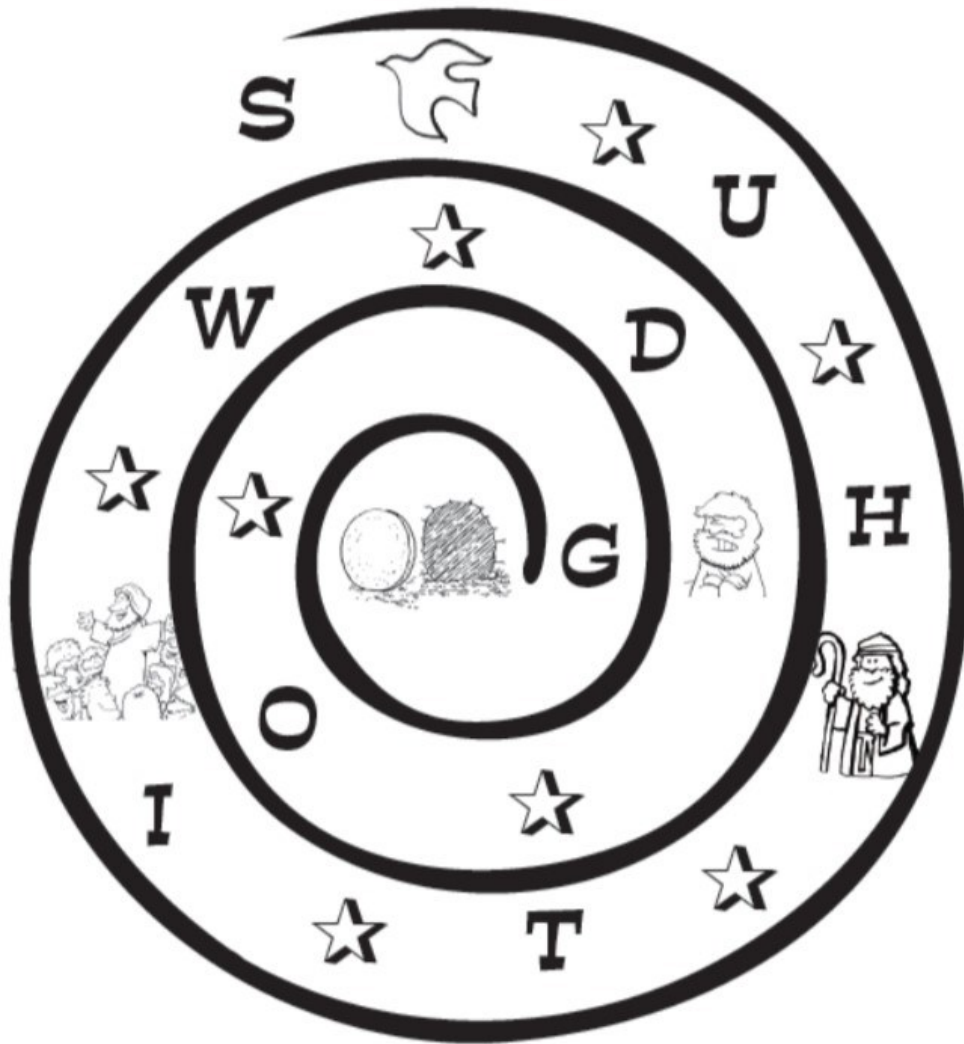


Look at the pictures in the circle to remember the stories from the Easter season. Begin at the center to find the Gospel message for today.



Print the message below.

The Holy Spirit means _____
_____ !

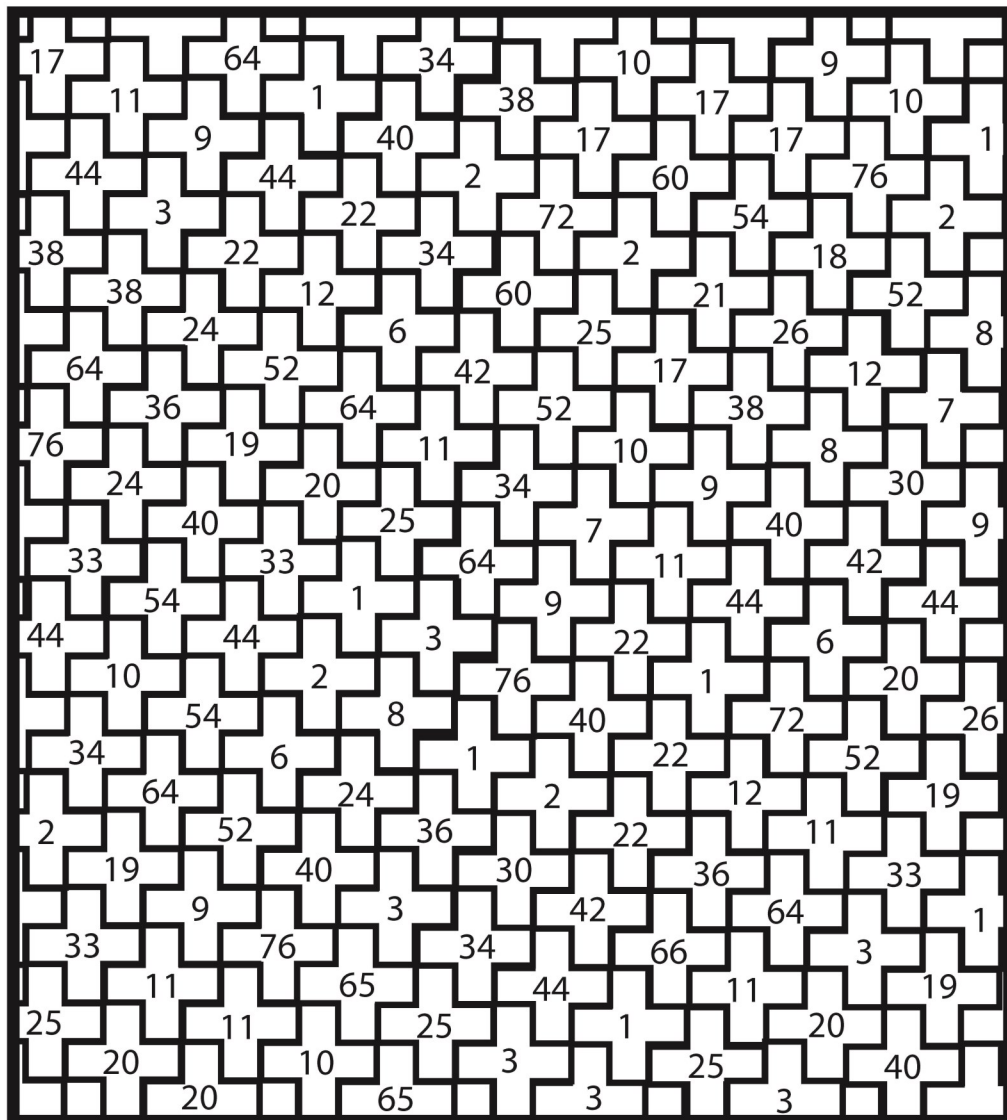




- Today is the **6th Sunday** in Easter.
- Easter is a time to **celebrate** new life and new beginnings.

Love of 6

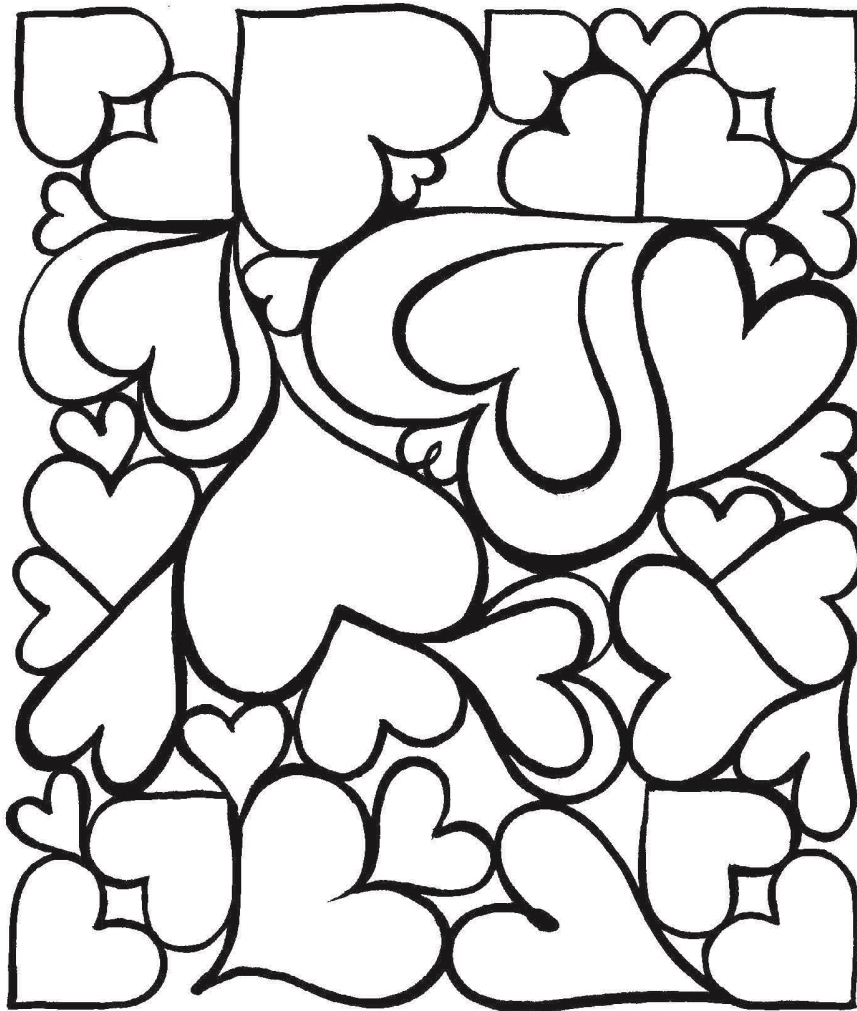
Today is the 6th Sunday in Easter. In the grid below, color in all the multiples of 6. What image do you see?



Hearts the Same

God sent the Holy Spirit because God loves us. The Spirit lives in each of us. We can love because Jesus loves us.

Find and color 12 hearts that are the same. Then draw the Holy Spirit's flame inside each of the hearts.



When Peter spoke, the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon people who heard him. Some of the people there began to speak in tongues. That meant that they were praising God with words that weren't even their own language. The Old Testament has a story about people speaking in different languages. Look up Genesis 11:1-9 to read about the Tower of Babel. What's the difference between these two stories?

Did You Know?





Look It Up!

God loves each and every one of us. Read about God's amazing love in John 15:9-17. Then, match the two halves of each verse together.

I am giving you these commands...

...but I chose you

You did not choose me...

...AND BEAR FRUIT, FRUIT THAT WILL LAST

No one has greater love than this...

...to lay down one's life for one's friends

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you...

...so that you may love one another

I APPOINTED YOU TO GO...

...abide in my love



Oh no! The waters of baptism have smeared the memory verse. See if you can figure out the smudged words.

Memory Verse



"While Peter was still ~~speaking~~ ing,
the ~~Holy Spirit~~ fell upon ~~all~~ who
~~heard~~ the word."

"So ~~Peter~~ ordered them to be ~~baptized~~ in
the name of ~~Jesus Christ~~ ."

Scavenger Hunt

Have you ever been on a scavenger hunt? During a scavenger hunt, people look for things on a list. Go on a scavenger hunt in your worship space with this list.

How many musical instruments did you hear today?



What colors is the pastor wearing?



What color is the cloth on the altar, or table?

How many candles are lit?



What symbol is on the front of your hymnal/songbook or bulletin/worship folder?



What is your favorite part of the worship service?



