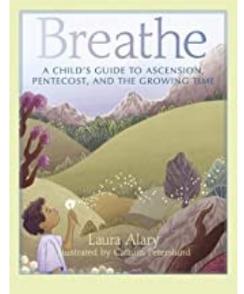


Weekly Faith Formation Update

May 17- 21, 2021

This is Pentecost Sunday with so many things that can be done to involve the family or your whole congregation to celebrate the birthday of the church. A beautiful new book that is a new addition to the Resource Center is [Breathe: A Child's Guide to Ascension, Pentecost, and the Growing Time](#), by Laura Alary and published 2021 by Paraclete Press.



It invites us to explore the comings and goings of Jesus and the Spirit through retellings of the Biblical stories of Ascension and Pentecost, as seen through the eyes of a child. Moving beyond long ago and far away events, it guides young and old to wonder about and watch for the presence and work of the Spirit here and now, in practices of prayer and mindfulness, through acts of justice, generosity and the sweet taste of kindness and even in each other. Pick the book up to use even after Pentecost!

Prayer Candle | Traci Smith

This candle craft is so simple and so effective, perfect for just about any season of the year, and the candles make great gifts. It's easy enough for all ages with not many supplies or waste.

Supplies: [Mini-cookie cutters](#), [Sheets of wax](#) (plan on 1/2 sheet of wax per candle), Small pillar candles, Parchment paper or aluminum foil (to keep the wax sheets from sticking to the table or each other), Plastic spatula (to cut the sheets of wax and to scrape some of the wax from the table)

Instructions:

1. Cut out shapes and press them to the wax candles. If you press very gently, the shape can be removed and moved to a different spot on the candle. Once the shape is where you'd like it, press firmly all around so it sticks very well to the candle.
2. THAT'S IT!

I know these prayer candles will take on very special meaning when we light them or give them to others.

Notes:

- Be sure to do it in a cool area or on a cool day.

Paper Twirlers

Materials: White paper plates, Crayons, Watercolor paint, Scissors, Brushes, Hole punch, Yarn or string

Instructions:

1. Decorate both sides of your paper plate with crayon drawings.
2. Paint over the crayon drawings with watercolor paint. Let dry.
3. Cut the paper plate into a thick spiral, starting from a point on the outside and working your way inward, leaving a 2–3-inch circle in the center.
4. Punch a hole in the center and tie a string through the hole.
5. Hang in a window or near a fan or on the porch. Admire the paper spirals as they twirl in the wind or by your puffs of breath.

Opening Litany for Pentecost (The Holy Spirit In Creation)

First Reader (pouring water):

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was upon the face of the deep;
and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1: 1-2)

**The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters.** (Psalm 29: 3)

Second Reader (with wind chimes):

The wind blows where it chooses,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3: 8)

**The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"** (Psalm 29:9)

Third Reader (carrying/ pouring soil):

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (from Psalm 104:30)

**The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.** (Psalm 24:1)

Fourth Reader (with candle):

I baptize with you water;
but one more powerful than I is coming
who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (from Luke 3:16)

**The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.** (Psalm 29: 7-8)

Leader:

May the Lord give strength to the people!
May the Lord bless the people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)