

Pentecost is kind of a big deal for the church. On the first Pentecost – fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus – the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. The Holy Spirit is the part of God that lives in us, inspiring us, guiding us, and empowering us to be disciples.

On that first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did some amazing things:

- The Spirit came as a great wind blowing through the room where the disciples were
- The Spirit appeared as flames over each person's head
- The Spirit gifted the disciples with the ability to speak in different languages so that everyone could hear about Jesus.

On that first Pentecost, the city of Jerusalem was filled with people from all over the Empire; they'd gathered to celebrate one of the Jewish festivals. There were lots of celebrations: dancing, singing, and good food. Pentecost Sunday should be a party for us, too: we call this the birthday of the church! Today we celebrate God sending us the Holy Spirit to live with us forever.

So, what about the bubbles?

Well, bubbles remind me of the Holy Spirit.

1. **Bubbles are other-worldly.** When the Holy Spirit first arrived, it floated down from heaven and landed on the disciples. Blow a bubble and see if you can catch it in your hand! Bubbles never seem to be limited by gravity; they

float effortlessly around the park, like something out-of-this-world. The Holy Spirit comes from God, and enters our world to point us to a new and better world designed by God.

2. **Bubbles are free!** When talking about the Holy Spirit, Jesus says that it “blows where it chooses...and you do not know where it comes from or where it goes” (John 3:12). Doesn't that sound like a bubble? It's fascinating to watch where they go, how they circle in the wind and land on things. You can't predict where they will go or what they will do. Like the Holy Spirit, bubbles are free!
3. **Bubbles are meant to be shared!** If you try to capture bubbles, they pop! You can't store them away for later or keep them for yourself. Bubbles have to be used right away and shared with others now. They won't keep. The Holy Spirit is meant to be shared – right now – so that everyone can enjoy the gifts God offers. If you are stingy with your bubbles, they break and no one wins. Just like the gifts the Holy Spirit brings – which are meant to be used for the common good (1 Cor. 12:7) and not hoarded – so that everyone wins.
4. **Bubbles are breathed into life.** In the creation story, God breathes life into creation (Gen. 2:7). Similarly, a bubble forms when you breathe into it. The Holy Spirit came as a mighty wind to fill us up and get us moving, living and working with God for the restoration of creation.
5. **Bubbles bring joy!** It's not possible to be unhappy when you're blowing bubbles. Just listen to the squeals of laughter when children blow bubbles. The Holy Spirit is

meant to help us live as children of God, in ways that bring peace and contentment and joy.

6. **Bubbles are powerful.** Bubbles can wash you clean! Which is amazing because they look so fragile and clear: we can hardly see them. We can't see the Holy Spirit either, but we can see what it does. The Holy Spirit is the power of God at work in our lives, helping us to live Godly lives in service to one another.

Yup! Bubbles are amazing! And so is God's Spirit!
So, let's blow some bubbles and celebrate Pentecost Sunday!

Prayer for Pentecost

For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind and stills our life,
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Love that touches hearts and reaches out,
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul and gives us faith,
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace for this your church,
we give you thanks.

Amen.

Bubbles

Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017

Worship in the Park

Acts 2:1-21

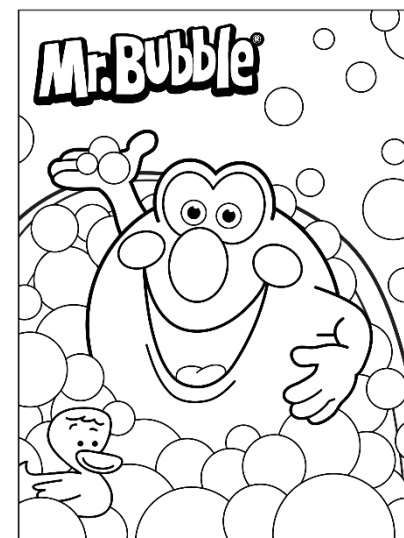
Do you remember *Mr. Bubble*?

When I was a kid, Mr. Bubble was a pretty popular guy!

Developed by Harold Schafer, who founded the Gold Seal Company in North Dakota, *Mr. Bubble* promised to "bubble kids clean."

TV ads featured Dirty Bert – the cartoon bad guy of bath time – but *Mr. Bubble* soon had him clean and shiny.

The TV ad claimed that *Mr. Bubble* "makes getting clean almost as much fun as getting dirty."



Well, we're going to talk about bubbles today. And we're talking about bubbles because my friend Truman told his Mom we should have bubbles in church – and I think he's right! And today is the perfect day to have bubbles in church because today is Pentecost Sunday.