

Today we celebrate the feast of Pentecost – the gift of the Spirit – to the Church – to a people who had walked and talked with Jesus....a people who had witnessed his healings and listened to his preaching - those early disciples who were now hiding in an upper room – who were frightened and felt very much alone and abandoned – disappointed and confused by Jesus’ death...and resurrection...and now his ascension...

Jesus’ promise to send another, an advocate, a helper to lead and guide becomes evident through the movement of the disciples from fear to courage, from disappointment to hope, from hatred to love. While the disciples reported the Spirit’s presence as “a noise like a strong wind, tongues like fire”, the presence of the Spirit was manifest in their ability to speak and preach with courage and passion. The Spirit set their hearts on fire.

This same spirit is present with us in the same ways.

Let us celebrate Pentecost – and be blest once again with this gift of the Spirit to us as Church, as a people of God by proclaiming God’s love in concrete ways: offering forgiveness, being compassionate, speaking truthfully and remembering that we are never alone. Let this be our prayer and our action this day!