

**Devotion, Seventh Week of May 19, 2024, Pentecost**  
**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

We had flickering red candles, red paraments and stoles, and a sea of red out in the congregation, not counting a wonderful meal together this past Sunday. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the gathered followers in Jerusalem, 50 days after Jesus' death, and as I said Sunday, it was an explosion of smells and sounds and flame. This coming Sunday we will celebrate Trinity Sunday, what I call a "dance" of these three aspects of God – the Parent/Creator, the Son/Messiah, and the Holy Spirit/Advocate. That Holy Spirit let loose on Pentecost filled the world with the wonderful presence of holiness that dwells with us and guides us.

I think of Pentecost as the culmination of the church year – even though liturgically we don't set the calendar that way – we start with Advent and end with Christ the King Sunday. But to me, the sending of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' believers so that they could go on after his death is where the church begins. We move in a long sequence – God of the Old Testament, the Son of the gospels, and then the Holy Spirit that inspires Peter and James and Paul and Silas and Timothy to stand up against all odds and preach the truth. They are strengthened by the presence of this Advocate to face danger and tells the good news of Jesus our Savior. And for over 2000 years, faithful men and women have done the same. We are called every day to witness to that truth, knowing that we too have the power of the Holy Spirit with us. So wear some red and make some noise. All heaven has broken loose.

*Jeanne*