



7. A present of the presence

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series (and with apologies for the split infinitive!) 'To boldly go....'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. This week we focus on the Christian celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of the worldwide Church, marked this year on June 8th, and on the presence of God with Christians through the Holy Spirit. In this script, we use the phrase 'the present of God's presence' – with younger children, you may need to explain the difference between the two words that sound very similar!*



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference your school's values and the things that are a part of your school's unique vision. This week, the focus is on giving children opportunity to reflect & think about the promise of the presence of God that Jesus spoke of, his Holy Spirit. We explore Jesus' promise to be with those who follow him, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is a great source of comfort for Christians. Some children in your community may be more comfortable with this as an idea than others, so make sure you are careful in how you word things and remain inclusive at all times!

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- Rucksack object this week: a small gift box.** Print on card the words in speech bubbles accompanying this script (on p6) and place them inside the present, on top of the tealight. Display this gift, and the speech bubbles, in your reflective area alongside the tealights.
- Included in the PPT are words that mean 'goodbye' in a variety of languages. Choose / add ones that are relevant for your school – matched to flags. If you need pronunciation advice, there are plenty of places online.
- For your reflective area this week**, you will need a gift box. You will also need some small luggage labels. These can be made up from rectangles of card with string if needed.
- If you want to follow up the theme of the worldwide Church with pupils, why not show pupils some videos of Christians across the world singing the Blessing together: [2025 ♥ THE BLESSING ♥ World Edition ♥ 10000+ from 154 Nations Sing the Blessing in 257 languages ♥](#) or listen to the Lord's Prayer spoken in languages across the world: [The Lord's Prayer as Heard around the World - YouTube](#)

Gathering:

Slide 1 or 2 [choose whichever image you prefer, or use them in rotation]:

Use the greeting for this term

Leader: We are on this journey together...

Children: We are friends along the way...

ALL: May God go with us.

BSL interpretation:

Sign for 'way' (nearest to the idea of 'journey'): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - way](#)

Sign for 'friends': [British Sign Language: friends](#)

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

Engaging:

- Slide 3: To boldly go.....** Today we are going on another journey, a journey that began in the time of Jesus, but before we go there.....
- Slide 4: 'Goodbye'**
We say goodbye for all sorts of different reasons....[think of some together] Going on a journey sometimes means saying 'goodbye' – as well as 'hello'! – and every language across with world will have a word that means 'goodbye'. Let's look at some now....



- **Slides 5-11:** Look at the different words that all mean 'goodbye' – how many do children recognise? Practise saying some together - invite children who speak the language to advise on pronunciation.
- **Slide 12:** In our rucksack today we havea gift – maybe a present for someone as you leave, to say 'goodbye' and 'remember me'. I wonder what might be inside? *[allow children time to guess, but don't open the gift yet!]*
- **Slide 13:** I wonder if you've ever had to say 'goodbye' to someone who you wouldn't be seeing again for a long time? I remember when.....*[Share a personal story here if you have one, rather than ask children to tell theirs – it could end in tears!]*
- **Slide 14:** Our very first story this term told us how Jesus' friends, the disciples, were very glad to have Jesus back with them again after his resurrection. Well, today's story is a farewell story: but it's a sort of happy-sad goodbye.... Listen, and you'll find out why..... *[use script on p4-5 & slides 15-23. The sections that are highlighted in yellow will be picked up in the reflective section today]*

.....

- **Slide 24:** As we've heard, Pentecost, the coming of God's Holy Spirit to ordinary people, is celebrated by Christians all over the world. The story we've just shared used some symbols of the Holy Spirit – many of which can be found in churches, and of course in our very own Guildford Cathedral.....
- **Slide 25:** ...whose proper name is the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The symbol of fire, or flames, is one of the most common of these symbols, because of this Pentecost story.
- **Slide 26:** The story of the birthday of the Church reminds us of how ordinary people changed the world with the present of God's presence.....

- **Slide 27: The gift**

Earlier on in our time together, we took a gift box out of our rucksack – I hope you can see how it fits in with our story for today! Jesus' gift to his followers – and every Christian since – was the present of his presence, his Holy Spirit. Inside our gift box, I have a few things to help us as we think together about the Pentecost story. *[take out speech bubbles and read them, talking briefly about each if you need to]*

It will help you: *It helped the disciples to be brave and tell others about Jesus. Christians sometimes call the Holy Spirit 'The Helper'. It also helps followers of Jesus to follow him, which sometimes means making difficult decisions in life.*

'I will be with you, always and forever': *This was a promise for Jesus' disciples then, and for all who follow him afterwards, bringing strength, peace and comfort whatever happens. For many of Jesus' disciples, this sustained them through times of great difficulty [NB most of them encountered persecution, and like Jesus, an untimely death]*

It's a little piece of heaven: *It's like heavenly DNA! It gives followers of Jesus the same family characteristics as Jesus himself because the Holy Spirit helps them to become more like him.*

It will give you power: *This doesn't mean physical strength, but the power to love and serve others as Jesus did, or to act bravely when needed.*

Responding (and words for worship):

Slide 28: At the end of our time together today, let's be quiet and still. Jesus promised his friends, the disciples, that through the gift of his Holy Spirit, **'I will be with you, always and forever.'**

....I wonder how this promise made the disciples feel?....

....I wonder how this promise helps Christians now?....

....I wonder what you think about the promise that Jesus made?....

....I wonder if you know anyone who might find these words helpful today?....

Jesus said that the present of the presence of God's Holy Spirit is a gift for all those who follow Jesus on their life's journey....it's his way of being with them, always and forever.

Spend some time in quiet reflection now.....



Prayer: I'm going to use a prayer that's based on the promise that Jesus made. Join in the words on the screen ('We are not alone!') if you'd like to, or if you'd prefer, just be still and quiet with your own thoughts:

Slide 29: Dear God

We remember how you sent the gift of your Spirit.

We are not alone!

Slide 30: As part of this school community,

We are not alone!

Slide 31: In our homes and with our families,

We are not alone!

Slide 32: Wherever we are and whatever we do,

We are not alone!

Slide 33: Amen

Sending:

Slide 34: Use this term's leaving words

Leader: We have journeyed together today.

As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

ALL: ...May God go with us.

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

To sing / listen to:

[Chain of love](#) (BBC)



Ideas for classroom reflection: gift box and labels

Display the speech bubbles with your gift box

Jesus said that because of the present of his presence, he would be with his friends 'always and forever'.

Take a label from the box.

Think about someone who might need to know they are not alone, or who needs God's help. It might be you!

Write or draw this onto the label.

You might want to hold the label in your hand and pray for them.

Put the label into the box when you have finished.



The gift (based on the accounts in Matthew 28, Mark 16 and Luke 24)

Slide 15: After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were all gathered together in Jerusalem. Suddenly Jesus appeared among them, as if out of nowhere. Well, you can imagine what they all thought: 'It's a ghost!!!'

But Jesus asked them for some supper – and ate a piece of fish right in front of them. It wasn't a ghost – it was really Jesus! But God had given him a brand new body – a forever body that would be the same, well....forever! God's promise to rescue the world through Jesus had come true – and Jesus' brand new body was proof that things would never be the same again. Jesus appeared to them in the same way, many times over many days.

Slide 16: 'Stay here in Jerusalem', Jesus told them. 'I am going home to my Father. But don't worry! I will send you what he has promised: the Holy Spirit. It's a special gift for you...a powerful gift....a little piece of heaven that will live in your hearts, and help you to tell the whole world what God has done.'

'And don't forget!' he added 'I will never leave you: never! I will be with you....always and forever!'

Slide 17: And then, in a blaze of bright light, the friends watched as Jesus left them for the last time and was taken up into heaven. They watched until he was hidden by the clouds....and then stood, staring at the sky, hardly knowing what to do next.

Slide 18: Two shining men were standing there beside them. 'What are you doing?' they asked. 'Jesus has gone home, but one day he will come back, in just the same way as you have seen him leave.'

Slide 19: And so the friends returned to Jerusalem with a strange sort of happiness in their hearts, as they remembered what Jesus had said about the gift from heaven – and that he would be with them always.

Slide 20: They had to wait 10 days before the gift that Jesus promised them arrived! The friends were all gathered together in the upper room, waiting,



just as Jesus had asked them to be. Suddenly there was a noise like rushing wind and as the friends looked at each other...

Slide 21: ...they saw tongues of flame hovering over each one's head. The flames were bright, but they did not burn. Instead, the friends' hearts were full of God's love and they praised God, in every language under the sun! The present of God's presence had arrived!! God's Holy Spirit was given to each one of the friends that day and they went out into the city, telling others about what God had done for them.

Slide 22: All the people who'd travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of Shavuot were astonished. 'We can hear these people praising God in our own language!' they remarked.

Slide 23: The present of God's Holy Spirit, his presence, was the beginning of something new – over 3000 people came to believe in God that day, the birthday of the Church. And every year since, the Church has celebrated that very special birthday as the festival of Pentecost.



Print, cut out & place into the gift box

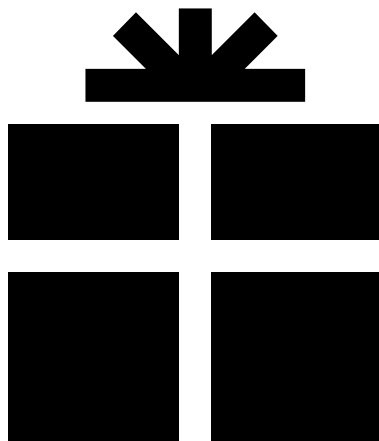
**It's a little
piece of
heaven.**

**I will be with
you, always
and forever**

**It will help
you.**

**It will give
you power.**





***Jesus said that because of the present of his presence,
he would be with his friends 'always and forever'.***

Take a label from the box.



**Think about someone who might need to
know they are not alone, or who needs
God's help. It might be you!**



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