

MHA Sunday



One Sunday, one service, one church

Readings

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 67

Psalm 139

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Hymn suggestions

Remember me O Living One (75th Anniversary hymn)

We shall go out with hope of resurrection – June Boyce-Tillman. Tune: Londonderry Air

Come down, O Love divine

Intergenerational ideas

Use of flags, ribbons and hand held fans symbolising the movement of the Spirit .

Art station: Cut out large template of doves, write prayers on the underside of red and orange pieces of paper, felt, tissue and decorate the dove with these colours.

Make headbands with flames made of tissue paper.

LED tea lights symbolising flames appearing.

Give children dark glasses and ear plugs to experience what it is like to lose sight and/or hearing.

Ask the children and older members of the congregation what they feel they could offer the other – ideas may include older people give better hugs, children can help with IT. Invite the older people to talk about their favourite music. Invite the young people to create a playlist for them.

Talk ideas

Language

- Use a Powerpoint presentation to put up a series of simple words in French and German. See if anyone can give an interpretation.
- Move on to putting up words in Arabic. See how these work out.
- Talk about ways in which we communicate. Not just verbal, but sign language, body language, pointing, gesticulating etc.
- One of the great gifts of Pentecost was that everyone could see and understand.
- How could we communicate with those who have lost the use of their voice (cancer, dementia) or have difficulty in putting the right words together (stroke).
- How do we show care and love?
- What can we learn through our communications with these people?
- How can we use communication in our churches in an inclusive way? Do some brainstorming.
- Signs to (and back from) the toilets.
- Hymn numbers on a board so that they have time to find them.
- Printed word dark blue on yellow is easier for the visually impaired.
- Use the traditional form of the Lord's Prayer. It often connects with people who live with dementia.
- Have special dementia-friendly activities for those who live with dementia and for their carers. Activities where people are free to come and go.

Clothing

If it's a culturally diverse area, arrange for people to dress up in clothing that they wouldn't normally wear. It is striking to see how our opinion of people changes when we see them wearing clothing from a different culture and will often impact on the way we communicate with that person. (If you're being really creative and having café style church - extend it to tasting different foods.)

A talk around clothing could work well in a diverse cultural setting but may also be fun for teenagers who tend to demonstrate who they are by what they wear, how they do their hair, whether they have tattoos, piercings etc. It may encourage a conversation between ages or work well in a youth group.

Continue to reflect on how older people struggle:

- To know whether clothes are clean or not.
- Doing up small buttons/zips etc.
- Knowing what colour things are and whether things go together.
- With needing fast access to certain areas (For example trousers with zips and buttons etc).
- It may help everyone to be more compassionate and understanding.
- Pentecost story leading into the difference a day makes. The Pentecost story turns the Babel story on its head. People were gathered for a major festival in the Jewish religion, Jerusalem was crowded with people from far and wide (v5) in one place, the Holy Spirit is given, not just to one nation, but to every one. They all spoke in way that each could understand. The power of the Holy Spirit is poured out on all people, without distinction of gender or age (v17). The church is born and sent.
- Pentecost was for everyone. Today is an opportunity to being inclusive of people living with dementia. How inclusive a church are we, really? Consider what is it like to feel excluded? School playground picking teams, going to a strange place, not feeling welcomed etc. Contrast that to being welcomed and included and how that made you feel. Do we speak in a way that everyone can understand?
- Pentecost is the birthday of the church. How old is the church you are worshipping in? How has society and your neighbourhood changed in that time? How has your church changed and adapted during that time? One of those changes in society is people living longer, and a result of that is more people developing dementia. How can we be inclusive of everyone? How does someone living with dementia hear the good news?