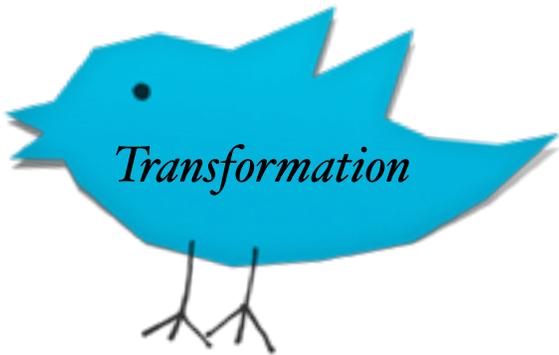




build. plant. grow.
the word this week



pentecost



lectionary
reading

Cycle B

The Feast of Pentecost

Lectionary #63

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11

In this reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Saint Luke describes the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples as *tongues of fire* coming to rest on each of them. For Saint Luke, fire was not a destructive force, but was an element that symbolized **transformation**. As the disciples were *filled with the Holy Spirit*, they were no longer frightened or afraid; their very nature had changed. They were truly ready to go out and preach to all nations as instructed by the Lord before he ascended to the heavens. This movement of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples is seen as the birth of the Church, for the disciples were now ready to preach, teach, and sanctify as instructed by the Lord.

Reading 2: I Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

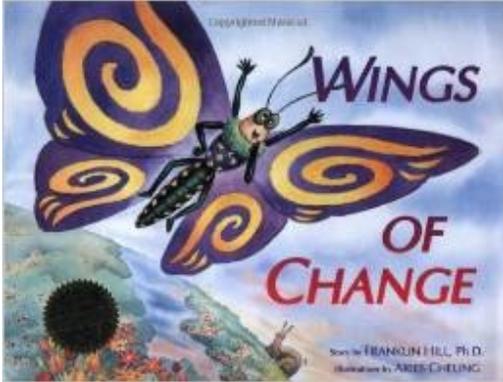
Just prior to this segment of Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he lists the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are gifts that will assist each believer in being **transformed** into a new person in Christ. To explain this, Saint Paul uses the analogy of all believers making up Christ's body as we are individual parts of it: the gifts given to each individual are to be used for the entire body. These gifts will bring about the **transformation** of each person when those gifts are employed rightly for the entire community.

Gospel: John 20: 19-23

This resurrection appearance of Jesus shows him bringing a twofold message to his disciples, who are frightened and hiding. The first is a message of comfort that is repeated twice: *Peace be with you*. The second message is a commissioning: *Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*. Jesus has bestowed upon them the Holy Spirit, the advocate that he promised to send, and in doing so, he has begun a **transformation** within them that will send them out to continue the work begun in Christ.



children's story



Wings of Change

Written by Franklin Hill, Ph.D

Illustrated by Aries Cheung

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character
education
activity

Transformation is that process where we embark on changing from the ways of the world to the will of God.

Wings of Change

In *Wings of Change*, the reader encounters a content little caterpillar named Anew. Anew is absolutely happy being a caterpillar and wants nothing to do with **transforming** into a butterfly. After experiencing some puzzling dreams, Anew turns to a wise old snail named Faith. With gentle prodding and advice from Faith, the frightened little caterpillar allows his fear to lessen and embraces his new life as a butterfly. It is a simple yet profound story that will help children grasp the concept of the word **transformation**. If children are experiencing some changes in their lives, this story could help alleviate some of their fears about change.

Activity: Timeline

Step One: Invite the children to bring a collection of pictures from the day they were born to the present time. The pictures will be used to make a timeline so that they can see the development, change, and **transformation** that they have experienced since birth.

Step Two: Provide the students with long strips of fiberboard that they can mount their photos on in an age progression: from birth to the present day.

Step Three: Once they have made their timeline, ask them to see how they have grown and what has changed. Additionally, ask them to notice the similarities throughout the the photos.

Step Four: Help the students to recognize that, just as our body **transforms** and changes, so does our spirit if we pay attention to it. Good nutrition, sleep, and exercise help us grow physically. Assist the students in listing the things that help them grow spiritually.

Transformation and change can be a challenging journey, but not one that we have to take alone. The Holy Spirit working through others helps accompany us on the road to change.



case study

Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.

What could you do today?

Make a commitment to enter into a daily practice of attending to your spiritual growth and development. In what ways will you nourish your spirit? What kinds of spiritual “foods” will you provide for yourself? What kinds of exercise will you practice for your spirit? How will you allow your spirit to rest and be silent in the midst of all the things that are going on around you? Answering these questions with your mom or dad will help you put together a routine that will allow you to attend to your spirit and nurture an on-going **transformation**.

Look Feel Know Act

Look around and see how things in nature change, evolve, and enter into **transformation**. Pay attention to how the created world of God constantly changes, for it is the nature of things to change and **transform**. This is certainly true for us as human beings. However, we are given free will from our God, which means that we can either cooperate or oppose the opportunities and invitations for change and **transformation**. Because we have this free will, it is all the more important to invite God’s spirit to direct us when we are presented with opportunities to enter into a change process. Knowing that God will always see to our greatest good, we can trust that God will be with us during the challenges and opportunities we encounter on our journeys. With this trust in the Lord, we can make each step as an act of faith that we will arrive at the place where God wants us. Make a daily commitment to trusting that God is alongside you as you enter into any decision or change in your life.

The *Wings of Change* shows children of all ages the natural feelings of fear that one might experience when facing a change or **transformation** in their life. When the disciples found themselves fearful of the unknown, they were given the gift of the Holy Spirit to encourage them in their new life and mission. Jesus remained true to his word and sent them an advocate to teach, instruct, and remind them of all that Jesus had given them while he walked beside them on Earth. We are also given the Holy Spirit to guide and encourage us in any of the challenges and opportunities that come our way. God will always call us to do what is loving and right, for all **transformations** that God asks us to make will be rooted in love and integrity.



**closing
tool**

Lord God, be with me at all times and in all places. Help me to always see your guiding hand as you lovingly call me to the beautiful transformation that is grounded in your will for me. Amen.



**Santa Clara
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