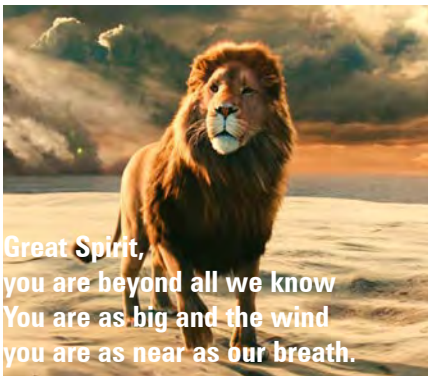


> Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost 2015

Our celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit was rich. Bible reading events were aligned with anecdotes about creativity & hope. Stories, prayers, songs, lament, liturgical movement and response shaped our worship.

Psalm 104



Great Spirit,
you are beyond all we know
You are as big and the wind
you are as near as our breath.



Creation

"I look around at nature - it's so beautiful. Nothing mankind can create can match this sort of beauty."

"I think it's just - a daily sense of enjoyment of the world, particularly the abundance around me."

It's not somehow about creating in seven days - it's about, what's the essence of life, the universe and everything."



Romans 8



Creativity

It almost comes upon me. From a drive or a passion within; A passion for God, for existence ... to express itself in all its mirrored beauty

When you create a child, you give them a starting point, but then they create themselves.



It sort of rushes out of me because it's not always perfect, it's not always right. You're happy with it, and then you look at it and you see something you can change or ...

I feel a static charge... Sort of an electric charge through the body. It has to be activated. It lights up a light in my mind

I feel wide open like a child. Sometimes it's thru a story or something I notice. It is like water in the desert .

The Lightest Touch

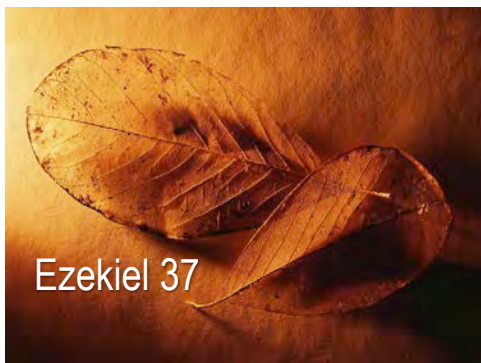
Good poetry begins with the lightest touch, a breeze arriving from nowhere, a whispered healing arrival, a word in your ear, a settling into things, then like a hand in the dark it arrests the whole body, steeling you for revelation.

In the silence that follows a great line you can feel Lazarus deep inside even the laziest, most deathly afraid part of you, lift up his hands and walk toward the light.

David Whyte



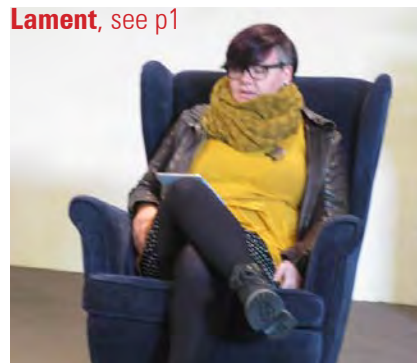
Ian's dance is available here:
<http://youtu.be/zy-ROMuW4sk>.



Ezekiel 37



Lament, see p1



Acts 2

Hope

"I look forward to seeing my family and friends"

"probably last year, waking up when the next day I'd be sliding down a water slide."

"I see it in the way we lift together. God sends all of these people who solve my problems."

(Hope is) "buoyant; expanding; light"



"Comforting. Hope is the future. Something to look forward to. It keeps me getting up in the morning."

"I felt happy. My sister was coming over... and I was waiting, and I kept hearing a car door and it wasn't her and then when she came I ran outside saying 'Jen Jen Jen!'"



Prayers of the People



Our ministry team who organised, planned, invited, co-ordinated and led our celebration.

We were invited to consider the ways in which God's Spirit ignites us, what we were fired up about? What calls us beyond ourselves? Dancing like a flame above us? We then wrote a note on the pieces of red flame handed out by the children. Once collected, the children pasted our flames onto a prayer collage.

Creation, Creativity, Hope - Anecdotes shared by members of the congregation

Layout & photos by Saide Cameron together with images created by Ian Ferguson for worship slides

Ecumenical Pentecost worship

In the evening of Pentecost Sunday members of all the local Christian churches gathered for an ecumenical service at Christ Church Anglican church. We sang and prayed together of our unity in the Holy Spirit, pouring water from jugs brought from each congregation into the baptism font.

Carolyn Francis, from Collin's St Baptist Church, preached an inspiring sermon about the woman at the well in John 4. She challenged us to see her not as a figure of judgement (with her multiple husbands) but of compassion - alone in the heat of the day, excluded by the other women of the community, in need of space to be herself.

An offering was collected for the World Council of Churches Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

Ian Ferguson