



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

*You can't see it
– but it's there*

Children's Story

Year B, Pentecost

Title: You can't see it – but it's there
Author: Charlotte Martens
Church: Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: John 15:26-27 16:4b-15
Theme: Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is among us.
Needed: Clear drinking glass, a piece of paper, and a large container full of water

Wondering questions:

- I wonder if we could see air if it were coloured.
- I wonder if Jesus ever did this air experiment with children.
- I wonder if God's Holy Spirit keeps things dry.
- I wonder how God's Spirit is in and around us.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children to this part of the worship service that is especially for them. Tell them that God has given us all a healthy dose of curiosity to help us wonder about things, to learn more about how things work, and even to think about God. Today our worship is about God's Holy Spirit. Have you heard about the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is one of the ways we experience and talk about God. One way of thinking about what the Holy Spirit is like is to think about the air we breathe. So let's settle down, with our curiosity ready to help us, and watch this experiment about air so it can help us understand something about the Holy Spirit.

Science Experiment:

The premise of this experiment is that air takes up space that looks empty. This is one way to help children understand that even though we cannot see the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is present among us.

What to do:

- Crumple up the piece of paper and jam it into the drinking glass (or have one of the children do it for you).
- Ask the children what they think will happen if you push the drinking glass into the water upside down. Have them predict whether the paper will be wet or dry.
- Push the drinking glass straight into the water and submerge it for a few seconds.
- Remove the glass from the water. Continue to keep it straight.
- Have one of the children remove the paper from the glass. Is the paper wet or dry? Why didn't the paper get wet?
- Help the children to understand that air takes up space that looks empty. The glass already has air in it, so there is no room for water in that space.

The Holy Spirit is one of the ways we talk about God. One example of what the Holy Spirit is like is the air we breathe. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but it is there. That's one way the Holy Spirit is like air. You can't see the air; but it is there just the same. That's what the experiment showed us. The water glass looked like it was empty, but it was full of air that kept the water from getting in and wetting the paper. If paper could feel, it would have felt the pressure of the air. We can feel air, too. We can't see it, but it is there.

That's how it is with the Holy Spirit. We can't see it, but it is there, and sometimes we can feel it comforting, or warning us, to live in God's ways. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is called the breath of God.

Let's take a deep breath of air and think about breathing in God's Holy Spirit. When you go back to your seat, you can think about God as you breathe, and remember that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is among us and in us. You can't see the Holy Spirit, but it is there.

The experiment is taken from: Science Is, by Susan V. Bosak Scholastic Canada Ltd. (Markham, ON.), 1991

Prayer:

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for being there, like the air, even if we can't see you. Thank you that you are in us and around us, and help us know God. Amen.

**Sing The Story 121, Nothing is lost on the breath of God, would be a suitable song for the congregation to sing as the children go back to their seats.*