

Esther and Emmett – May 23 2021

Esther: (singing)
“Veni Sancte Spiritus
Veni Sancte Spiritus”

Emmett: Hi Esther. Nice song. I think Veni was in my kindergarten class.

Esther: Hi Emmett. It is a nice song, but Veni isn't a person's name.

Emmett: Come to think of it, I think his name was Vinny not Veni! He was funny, and great at playing 'I Spy.'

Esther: 'Vini' is Latin for the word 'Come'. I was singing, 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

Emmett: I never would have guessed that. How come you're singing in Latin?

Esther: It's a chant...a sung prayer.

Emmett: Oh, this is like a hymn...a church song? That's why it's about Holy Veni.

Esther: No ...Veni isn't holy.

Emmett: No! then who is holy?

Esther: The Spirit of God is holy! The Holy Spirit.

Emmett: is there an English version of the song?

Esther: In English we sing:
*'Come, Holy Spirit
Come, Holy Spirit'.*

It's a song...but it's really a prayer!

Emmett: What kind of prayer is that?

Esther: It's a prayer asking for God to be with us, to guide us. The resurrected Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them.

Emmett: Would the Holy Spirit sing with them?

Esther: The Holy Spirit is one of the ways we talk about God being active in our lives. God is spirit means that God is like the air in that we can't see air, but air is around us and inside us and gives us life.

Emmett: So, saying 'come Holy Spirit means we want God to always be with us?

Esther: Yes...God guides us, helps us to love others, to see everyone as a child of God, to see the world as wonderful and precious.

Emmett: So God understands English and Latin? God is pretty smart!

Esther: God understands every language, because God loves everyone and lots of different languages are spoken by everyone throughout the world. That's what the story of Pentecost is about.

Emmett: Pen -te -cost!! Pen-te-cost! That sounds like something expensive that you would write with!

Esther: In the time of Jesus, Jewish people celebrated the festival of Pentecost. Fifty days after the first harvest of grain, the people held a festival, a celebration of God's creation and generosity.

Emmett: And does Pentecost have something to do with Veni and the Holy Spirit?

Esther: Yes. In the Bible there is a book called 'the acts of the Apostles' about the disciples and the early church, and it tells the story of Jesus' disciples being in the city of Jerusalem during the Pentecost festival.

Emmett: Did they sing about the Holy Spirit? I bet the Holy Spirit would enjoy a festival. I know my friend Vinny would have!

Esther: They might have been singing! They certainly were very excited because the Holy Spirit had come to them, and now they were filled with a sense of hope and wanted to tell everyone about God and Jesus!

Emmett: That would get anyone excited. They could tell everyone about Jesus feeding all those people in the wilderness, and fixing the legs of the guy who couldn't walk, and about Jesus eating breakfast with his friends after God raised Jesus after he was killed.

Esther: The Christian church now celebrates Pentecost Sunday as a day to sing about the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Emmett: To sing about God in our lives...we can sing...what was it you were singing?

Esther: Veni, Sancte Spiritus...Come, Holy Spirit.

Emmett: I love that Veni prayer! Come Holy Spirit!

Esther: Amen

Emmett: Amen!