

surprised by the spirit



Leeds Anglican Ministries 2021 Conversation Guide

Connecting with Scripture: Acts 1:6-8

1. How do you imagine the apostles are feeling in this conversation with Jesus?
2. What emotions does this conversation with Jesus stir up for you?

Looking Back; Looking Forward

1. In what ways has our community of faith felt lost or struggled to see the Spirit?
2. What has surprised you over the past year?
3. What has our community of faith learned from the experience of this past year?
4. What questions are we being called to wrestle with?
5. What hopes for the future and signs of new life is the Spirit showing us?

Joining the Wider Conversation

1. What is *one learning* you would like to share?
2. What is *one question* you would like others to wrestle with as well?
3. What is *one hope* you would like to offer?

What else do you need our congregation's leaders to know?

What questions do you need answers to?

Thank you!

God of wind and flame, send your life-giving Spirit upon your people: give fire to our words, strength to our witness and boldness to our proclamation of your wondrous work in Christ; who, with you and the Spirit, lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

ACTS 1:6-8

So when [the apostles] had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

God of our journeys, you meet us in the lonely and locked places of our lives.

Like Jesus' disciples, we are weary from the assaults of repeated loss.

As you helped them in their confusion and pain, help us now to reorient our hope:

They thought they were restoring the power of Israel —but you invited them to build the kingdom of God

Surprise us with your hope

They thought they were isolated and apart —but you gathered them to yourself and to each other

Surprise us with your love

They thought they were lost and uncertain — but you cleared the path and a direction forward

Surprise us with your faithfulness

They thought it was the end

— but you breathed new life into a grieving people

Surprise us with ourselves, renewed! Amen.