

May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

Entrance Hymn ~ I Am Here in the Heart of God

Greeting

O Holy Spirit, by whose breath
life rises vibrant out of death,
come to create, renew, inspire;
come, kindle in our hearts your fire.

You are the seeker's sure resource,
of burning love the living source,
protector in the midst of strife,
the giver and the Lord of life.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

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 Spirit, lives and reigns
now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The people sit.

First Reading: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we

hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

PSALM 104:24-34. 35b

24 We go forth to our work* and to our labour until the evening.

25 **O God, how manifold are your works!***
in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

26 **Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number,*** creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan,*
which you have made for the sport of it.

28 **All of them look to you* to give them their food in due season.**

29 You give it to them; they gather it;*
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30 **You hide your face, and they are terrified;* you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.**

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;*
and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 **May your glory, O God, endure for ever;***
may you rejoice in all your works.

33 You look at the earth and it trembles;*
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

34 **I will sing to the Holy One as long as I live;***
I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please you;* I will rejoice in you, my God.

36 Bless the Holy One, O my soul.* Hallelujah!

Glory to God our Creator, to God's most Holy Word,
and to the Spirit, indwelling:*
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be
for ever. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to John **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

John 7:37—39

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon

I get up very early on some days, not every day, but around 5am I am up, me and the birds. It is the quietest time of day, it is when I can best write, pray, listen to God. God is always speaking but sometimes, it seems, it is really hard to hear that Holy Voice.

How are you doing? Have you been able to find time to listen to God? In what ways have you seen, or heard, or received that knowing, that promise, that blessed assurance? One way we were able to connect with that Holy Presence was through physically gathering together, once in a while, once a week, whenever we were able. Remember? Just a few months ago. What a joy it was to be together, to sing, to hold each other's hands, to laugh, to cry, to hear each other, just to see each other's mugs, as Patti would say.

Nothing can replace actually being together. We are all doing our best, I know we are, trying different ways to replicate those days when we could gather and share God's love. We are trying every which way to remind one another of our deep connectedness. But it is so hard.

Here in British Columbia it seems that for most of us, we escaped the worst. Due to our dedicated leaders, on every level, we responded quickly, and decisively. The result of our actions a few months, a few weeks ago is that the curve has flattened. But in some ways that makes things strangely hard. It may be hard for us to understand, or believe, the seriousness of this situation. Our longing to be together, for all those right reasons, may overwhelm our ability to listen to the uncomfortable truth. Dr. Bonnie Henry has said, there has never been a global pandemic that has not had a second wave. We are not out of the woods yet. We need to keep vigilant. We will not be able to gather in the same way we had, any time soon.

Our Church Committee is meeting. We are coming up with a plan, following the strict outline that has been created by our diocesan leaders. You are welcome to look at that, especially the document that explains the four phases of reopening in a single table. We are working to understand many components of this: how does this affect the daycare, the thrift store, our renters, and most of all, our own worship life, our shared life together? There is so much we don't know yet, but there is one thing that I know for sure: God is still speaking. Even if it is harder than before to hear that voice.

But fire and wind can be immensely destructive, as we saw earlier this year when much of Australia burned or earlier this month when typhoons struck the Philippines, India, and Bangladesh. Yesterday I heard that a tropical storm is brewing in the Pacific off the coast of Guatemala, threatening the already shattered communities in that country.

So perhaps it is entirely appropriate that fire and wind are signs of the Holy Spirit in this well-known Pentecost text. Perhaps they are also particularly appropriate symbols of the work of the Holy Spirit in our time. As we wait in the wreckage of what was, as we wait for the birth of what will be, we are called to see visions and to dream dreams. Thus, we might ask questions such as these:

What of our old lives, personally and communally, needs to be burned away? What needs to be renewed? These are questions that we can hold in our hearts, and think about together, all of us, we are the church.

These are strange times, disconcerting times, but we as the church have been here before, waiting and hoping, praying and trusting. And we are not alone. That same Holy Spirit who showed up in fire and wind to the first disciples calls us, too, to be witnesses to Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, New Westminster, and Victoria, everywhere to the ends of the earth. That same Holy Spirit who endowed the first disciples with the gift of tongues is alive and active today and will give us what we need.

An Affirmation of the Resurrection

Let us affirm the faith of our baptism.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The people stand, sit or kneel.

“ Let anyone who is thirsty come to me” (John 7) Come let us gather in prayer...

Pentecost is a time to give thanks and celebrate the many gifts of the Spirit to all. At this time we see the Spirit's harvest and give thanks for the many gifts being shared for the well being of the common good. Let us name those out loud or silently and hold them in our hearts.

O Living Water. **Flow through us...** (John 7)

At Pentecost we hear about the many tongues, many voices. Help us to hear and understand. We give thanks for the Spirit who mingled all the voices into one voice... let us be mindful of the unity of human family...

O Living Water. **Flow through us**

At Pentecost we hear of gifts of the Spirit we find hard to listen to. Let us hear and be attentive to the gifts of prophecy, those who give voice to peace and justice, the environment, care of the hungry, our neighbours...

“May the Spirit guide our thoughts and change our ways”(Brian Wren)

O Living Water... **Flow through us...**

At Pentecost we give thanks that people are given different gifts for the building up of the common good. We give thanks for people with the skill, energy and compassion for healing in body, mind or spirit... We pray for those needing strength, healing and comfort... May we too care compassionately.

O Living Water **Flow through us...**

At Pentecost we celebrate the birth of the church and today we are birthing, renewing new ways of being church, being a voice in the world!

O Living Water. **Flow through us...**

In the words of a hymn by Brian Wren...

“There’s a Spirit in the Air,

Calling Christians everywhere

Praise the love of Christ revealed

Living, working in our world! “

Brian Wren (582 VU, St B. white songbook)

Amen

The people stand.

THE PEACE: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn ~ Wind Upon the Waters

Wind upon the waters,

voice upon the deep;

rouse your sons and daughters,

wake us from our sleep.

Breathing life into all flesh,

breathing love into all hearts,

Living wind upon the waters of my soul.

Showers from the heaven,

water from the earth;

Gift so wholly given,

source of every birth.

Joy of every living thing,
making all creation sing,
Shower down upon the dry earth of my soul.

Rock and hill and garden,
wood and desert sand;
Prairie, field and meadow,
shaped by Love's own hand.
Love that fills the world around,
springing up from barren ground,
Grow your love within the garden of my soul.

Blazing light of wonder,
flame that pierces night;
Burst the dark asunder,
fill our souls with light.
Lord of glory, fill the skies,
make an end to hatred's cries,
Be the blazing Sun of justice in our lives.

Wind upon the waters,
rains upon the sand,
Grace your sons and daughters,
newborn by your hand.
Come, O Spirit and renew
all the life that comes from you,
Send your winds upon the waters of my soul.

During the offertory hymn we bring to the altar our gifts of bread and wine, and our financial offerings.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you gracious God . . .
. . .to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and Might
Heaven and Earth are Full of Your Glory,
Hosanna in the Highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the Highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God . . .
. . .Therefore, Creator, according to his command

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory . . .**

And we offer our sacrifice...
...now and for ever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Creator of all,
you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered
and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION:

The Table is ready and all are welcome

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Prayer After Communion

The people stand.

Let us pray: Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of life to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,
so that we may show your glory to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Community Announcements

Sending Hymn ~ Love Take a Walk With Me

Priest's Blessing

Sending out

Go forth in peace and love, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!