

## Pentecost Sunday May 19, 2024

Introduction to themes for the day and the season

With the sending of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' work and mission is unfettered by time and geographic constraints. Everyone....in their own language...hears God speak Good News. They feel the rush of wind and see the flickering flames that accompany the Spirit who gathers and gifts us to be Christ's church today.

### Prayer of the Day

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit—transform us by your truth—and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### Gospel

John 15:26-27–16:4b-15

26''When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. 27You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:4b-15

4But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. ''I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

7Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;

11about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. 12''I still

have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

## Sermon

The Lord works in mysterious ways, God's wonders to perform—

We heard in the first reading how God's Spirit rushed in and created as God's Spirit seems wont to do...God's Spirit creates a community where everyone hears Good News in their own language.

When we heard the Gospel today, we might have missed all the promises that accompany God's Spirit sent among us. John's language for the Spirit is one called to be alongside us, no matter what. It's that Spirit that enables us to be a community of witnesses. Dr. Karoline Lewis says that a community that reflects God's love is one where the Spirit moves and where people love one another as Christ loved them.

What if such communities of witness speak a language all understand...a language of action? Remember the words of St. Francis? He is reported to have said "Preach the Gospel always—and when necessary use words."

When we invite people into our space what motivation lies at the heart? If we're only desperate to recruit or invite so we can balance a budget we're sunk. People can smell the desperation clinging to us. If we invite people into our lives and our space because we're interested in THEM and also want to share something of our selves, then we are on to something.

On this Pentecost Day dare we dream that God's Spirit is still moving, speaking, energizing and building communities witnessing to God's love in action?

Two questions the whole church and this congregation or any can ask of themselves: These questions are ones we ask of ourselves together

Is there work to be done in our neighbourhood?

Are we the ones called to do it?

The answer to the first question is obvious. There's always work. The answer to the second question is much trickier. May the Spirit of God guide, direct and empower communities courageous enough to ask what God is calling them to do and be.

Amen.