

Day of Pentecost
May 23rd 2021



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Opening

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Sentence

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Collect

Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal, keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Reading

ACTS 2:1-21 OR EZEKIEL 37:1-14;

PSALM 104:25-35, 37B;

ROMANS 8:22-27 OR ACTS 2:1-21;

JOHN 15:26-27, 16:4B-15

Last week Rev. Jack Cox suggested that we can miss the point of biblical stories if we take them literally. He said that Luke's Ascension story was important because Luke was very concerned to show us that the "Spirit of Jesus" was going to come at Pentecost but Jesus needed to literally leave the scene for this to happen. We know that it was the same person who wrote Luke and Acts, so in today's Acts reading this author gets to finish the story he started. We know the story of the tongues of fire, Peter's sermon, and the speaking in other languages that everyone would understand. If we take these stories literally, and many do, it was an interesting miracle that happened over 2000 years ago but it doesn't really have much to do with us today.

So, if we aren't supposed to take this story literally, what is it about, and more importantly, "What was the author of Luke/Acts trying to tell us?"

The answer is simple and profound but to understand his thinking we need to go back to Genesis 11 and the story of the Tower of Babel. The people, who speak one language at the time, build a huge tower and city, all working together, but God doesn't approve, this is what happens:

"The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. 6And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' 8So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; "

Once again, this is a teaching story that tries to explain why we have so many languages and more importantly, why human beings can't cooperate and work together with unity. So fast forward to Luke's account of the Pentecost. He knows that his original readers would be very familiar with the Hebrew scriptures, unlike most of us. So, he introduces two huge teaching symbols. First, tongues of fire over the disciples' heads. If you were a Jewish reader, you know that fire is a symbol of God's presence. (The burning bush is the classic example but only one example.) So, Luke is saying God's presence is now coming down to the disciples, they are inspired with the Holy Spirit, or Jesus' Spirit. The second huge symbol is the fact that suddenly all the people from various places, speaking different languages, can suddenly understand one another! The curse of the Tower of Babel has been reversed! **Human beings, with the Spirit of Jesus, can now work together to build the "Kingdom of God" that Jesus preached and died for.** With the Spirit of Jesus, we can overcome the barriers of language, culture, gender and anything else that stands in the way of unifying the Children of God. The Church was to be a new beginning for humanity. Paul writes in Gal. 3:28, *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male not female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

This is exactly what Luke is trying to express with his story of Pentecost. This is the real miracle, not some once in history event of people understanding each other, but the real miracle of us really opening our hearts and minds to see everyone as a child of God. No wonder Martin Luther King Jr. Quoted this passage over and over again as he worked to reconcile black and white America into God's Kingdom of unity, respect and love. Pentecost teaches us that that vision of common purpose and love, cooperation and unity can truly accomplish miracles, and is God's plan and vision for our future.

Like Rev. Jack, I too see the signs of this miracle in the way that the world has worked to develop vaccines for Covid 19, and the way that some people have cooperated in Christian love to keep others safe. The work of Pentecost will never end but if we think of it as something that happened once in the past, we will miss the fact that Pentecost is happening now: every time we reach out to our neighbours with respect, love and cooperation to build a better more just and loving world that Jesus called, "The Reign of God".

Prayers for 23 May 2021 Submitted by Dorothy Koorn

Oh Holy Spirit, You are the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. You are the Spirit of truth, love and holiness, proceeding from the Father and the Son, and equal to them in all things. We worship and love you. Teach us to know and to seek God, by whom and for whom we were created. Fill our hearts with a great love for Him. Give us compunction and patience, and do not let us fall into sin.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity. Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal vow to follow Jesus' way of love. Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another. May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology. Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day. Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation.

O Holy Spirit, we pray for your gifts and guidance for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

For the week beginning Sunday 23 May 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Bill Graham** (interim) and the people of **Trinity, Waterford**.

O Holy Spirit, we pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. Especially remembering: June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, John, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

O Holy Spirit, we pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Julie, Janice S., Barbara S., Ian M. Carol M., and family and anyone known to you.

O Holy Spirit we give thanks for the life of David Howes and pray for comfort for his family and friends.

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator, and renew the face of the earth.

Come, Holy Spirit, Counsellor, and touch our lips that we may proclaim your word.

Come, Holy Spirit, Power from on High, make us agents of peace and ministers of wholeness.

Come. Holy Spirit, Breath of God, give life to the dry bones of this exiled age, and make us a living people, holy and free.

Come, Holy Spirit, Wisdom and Truth, strengthen us in the risk of faith.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.



It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or Enrique at enrique6921@hotmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the prayer list for a month.

Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

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.

Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video

<https://youtu.be/A8zIT0M8qpM>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the continued threat of COVID-19 in our area, in person Church services remain suspended. We will continue with our online services.

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on, regarding the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let Rev Enrique or myself know.

Any birthdays in May/June – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in the birthday section, please send me details.

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, May 23, 2021

The following hymns were chosen by the family of David Howes, member of St. John's Woodhouse, to honour his passing.

416 – All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

1. Each radiant flower that opens, each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their lively wings.

Refrain

2. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruit in the garden, God made them every one.

Refrain

3. The rocky mountain splendour, the loon's wild, haunting call,
The great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall.

Refrain

4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is the Creator, who has made all things well.

Refrain



#423 – How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation and claim his own, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at enrique6921@hotmail.com or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique's day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at ljbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page

