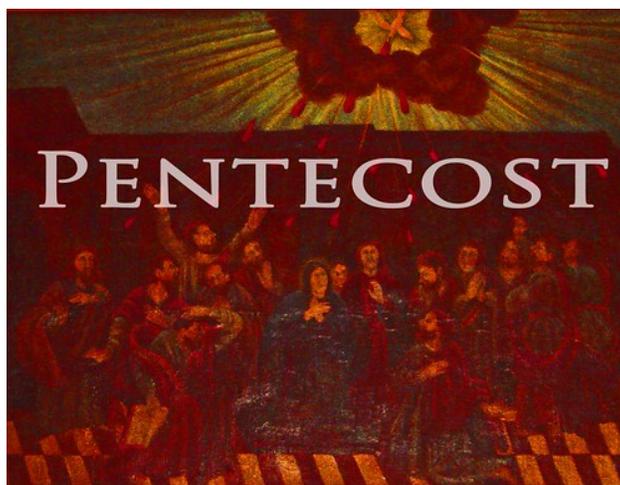


Pentecost
May 31st, 2020



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.

READINGS

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

Pentecostal Reflection

Let me begin by suggesting that the Pentecost proclamation was not a photographable event. To claim that it was, you would have to explain why no other gospel records it. Surely no other gospel writer would ignore such an event had he seen it or experienced it. Let me instead suggest that what Luke is proclaiming is that, just as God was with us in the historical Jesus, God continues to be with us in the Spirit of Jesus. That spirit, given to Jesus' community at Pentecost challenges us to speak and to listen to one another very differently precisely because it is out of Jesus' Spirit that we should speak and listen. Do you believe that? That is not a question that would be asked if what Luke is reporting was an historic/photographable event. My next question is simple (not easy but simple). If Pentecost is clearly the healing of the Tower of Babel story (Genesis 11:1-9), does God do this by healing the speakers or the listeners? (perhaps sometimes both?) To phrase that question differently: Does the Pentecost event, the giving of Jesus Spirit, help us to listen more sensitively or to speak more compassionately? Why is that question important? Because, without it, we might think God has just 'done it' (Pentecost) and we have no responsibility to cooperate with the Spirit. But if the experience of the gift depends equally on both the giver and the receiver, our expression of that Spirit (speaking/listening moved by the spirit) becomes critical.

One of the significant characteristics of Jesus' spirit is that of listening and healing. When the members of a local Synagogue went to Jesus asking him to cure a servant of a local Roman officer, upon meeting the officer Jesus declared that he had not found such faith in all of Israel, and he healed his servant (Lk 7:2-10). (Don't forget the animosity between the Jewish and Roman communities).

When a Canaanite woman pleaded with Jesus to cure her daughter, he initially refuses. But as she continued to press him and beg for her daughter to be healed, Jesus hears her, relents and heals the daughter because of the great faith he sees in her. (Mt 15:21-28)

These are only 2 examples of Jesus ability to listen differently from his contemporaries and respond differently because of what he hears.

Pentecost is all about speaking and listening differently. Do you believe that?

I'd like to make a simple observation/question. If Pentecost is as much about listening as it is about talking, why is it that, for the most part, when we think about 'prayer' or we 'pray' it is almost always us doing the talking? It's not that there are not ways of praying that are predominantly ways of listening. But those ways of praying are not the ones we are normally taught or exposed to. In my 78 years of life in the institutional Church – from pew to monastery to pulpit – I was never introduced to apophatic prayer (wordless prayer). Let me introduce you to it. It's not for everyone but you never know until you try it – there's an old saying, 'never dismiss an apple before you've bitten into one'. But it is my 'go to' form of prayer right now.

The format is very simple. I'll suggest a biblical format (though you could use a newspaper article, a particular concern you might be facing).

Pick a biblical text (one not too long). One suggestion to start: Mark 3:31-35. Mark the text in a bible and have it with you. Go to a comfortable place with a comfortable chair and sit down. Close your eyes and focus on your breathing. Breathe in slowly, pause your breathing, and hold your breath for a moment, then breathe out slowly. (repeat this process several times, focusing on your breathing, relaxing, and clearing your mind) When you're relaxed, pick up the text and read it **very slowly**, savouring each word. When you have finished reading the text, put the book down. Now just hear the words of the text slowly, over and over. If a word or phrase strikes you, stop and repeat that word or phrase slowly over and over. Limit yourself to 15 minutes. Stay with that kind of timing so the process does not seem onerous. This is an exercise to allow the words of a text to 'speak' to you.

I chose a biblical text for this exercise, but you could just as easily use a particular life experience or circumstance. The process is the same. The key (and the challenge) is to quiet the brain, not to create a mental/verbal dialogue with or within yourself. It is quite literally, allowing the text or circumstance to 'speak' to you. This takes some practice and doesn't usually happen quickly or easily (though it might). This practice is also called contemplation.

I'll leave my email and phone# if anyone would like to contact me about this process.

revjackcox@gmail.com

289-442-5164

Prayers of the People

Prayers for May 31, 2020 from Mary Field - jamar@kwic.com

Believing we have great power through prayer. In these troubled times choose to rely on His help not to "worry about anything," but instead "pray about everything." May His Spirit help us to guard our hearts and minds in **Him**.

Please take a moment to quiet your mind and heart as you prepare to spend valuable time in deep and thoughtful conversation with our Lord.

The following prayers we offer in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ;

*Heavenly Father we pray for continued blessings of courage, wisdom and strength for our long serving Queen Elizabeth and all world leaders who know and practice **Your** word in their leadership.*

Heavenly Father we pray most earnestly for those who live under dictators and leaders who do not lead with compassion and love. Leaders very much in need of **Your** intervention.

*Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, we look to **You** for support and guidance for the Diocese of Huron and all churches. We pray for wisdom, comfort and guidance for Archdeacon Rick Jones, our Lay Leaders and all who serve in our church. Lord help each of us to do our part. Praying for those caring for our spiritual health, their work has suddenly taken on new and important features as we learn to social distance and practice Zoom meetings in bringing **Your** word to us.*

Lord, we pray for powerful 'breakthrough' prayers that will move **Your** hand to action. Teach us to daily come to **You** and pray faith-filled prayers. We want to work together with **You** in prayer to determine our future and the future of our nation. We want to pray with authority for **Your** precious earth, we worry the importance of improving our climate will get lost in this pandemic crisis. Without **Your** power we are lost. Teach us to take hold of prayer and pray down blessings on our world. Thank You for the power of prayer that is available to us.

*Heavenly Father in Jesus name we pray to **You**, -for those who cannot see **You** in each other; for all humanity to find peace & love in **You**, - for your people to honour their differences. We appeal for **Your** love and support for all those in danger and in need here and throughout the world, there are so many: the lonely, sick, suffering, prisoners, captives, the persecuted and their families, the hungry, homeless, oppressed and an enormous prayer for those who are trying to help them .*

Heavenly Father it is with great sadness that we bring to you in prayer our concerns for our elderly. Covid 19 brought a concentration of deaths in homes for the elderly. They have not been treated with love, kindness or respect. We pray for your wisdom and guidance for those

in authority to permanently correct this disgraceful situation. Teach us how to be strong advocates through Your word against all injustices.

*Heavenly Father we continue to pray for the world's scientific community as they search for a vaccine and successful treatment for Covid19. Wrap **Your** loving arms around all front line workers, caring for and protecting them, as they risk getting ill in their daily battles with this contagious virus.*

We pray for good weather and the safety of our farmers as they put in long hours planting crops to feed the world.

Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love family and friends whom we have placed in your hands. , grant eternal joy and peace to our beloved and holy dead. In Jesus name we pray.

Lord, in every need let us come to You with humble trust saying, "Jesus, help me."

In all our doubts, perplexities, and temptations, "Jesus, help me."

In hours of loneliness, weariness, and trials, "Jesus, help me."

In the failure of our plans and hopes; in disappointments, troubles, and sorrows, "Jesus, help me."

When others fail us and Your grace alone can assist us , help me.

When we throw ourselves on Your tender love as a father and savior, "Jesus, help me.",

When our heart is cast down by failure at seeing no good come from our efforts, "Jesus, help me."

When we feel impatient and our cross irritates us , "Jesus, help me."

When we are ill and our head and hands cannot work and we are lonely, "Jesus, help me."

Always, always, in spite of weakness, falls, and shortcomings of every kind, " Jesus, help me and never forsake me."

Amen.

*We pray, also, for parishioners and friends in need of God's healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Andrea P., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Kathleen C-S., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Jerry M., Diane H., Delores B., **Rev. Paul Sherwood** and the people of **Trinity, Simcoe**.and anyone known to all who following these prayers.*

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. We especially remember: June, Shirley, Iris, Everett, Julie, David, John, Anna, and Ron.

A special Covid-19 prayer for: Elvira P.,

May you be with us all this coming week. Amen

Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If there are any changes to the prayer list or shut in list, please either let AD Rick or Anne Halls know at the at the contact information below.

We are also going to start a COVID-19 prayer list. If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the list for a month.

NOTE ABOUT THE VIDEO: I misspoke a word in the video. Shavuot (Jewish Harvest Festival) is 7 weeks and one day from *Passover* in the Jewish calendar not *Pentecost*. Pentecost is the same day as Shavuot 50 days after Passover. Sorry about that..... I am always open to feedback about these videos please let me and Jack know what you think. Rick+

One in the Spirit

The Most Rev. Anne Germod, Metropolitan of Ontario invites us all to an online celebration of Pentecost

The Celebration will be at 2 p.m. today Sunday May 31st at 2 p.m.

It will be available on the Diocese of Huron Website.

Please click on the link below to watch AD Rick's video for this week

https://youtu.be/uagwtLWJ_0k

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Archdeacon Rick Jones can be contacted by email rickplus@gmail.com or by phone @ 905 537 0324

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

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page