



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday dear Church. Happy birthday to you. Today is the birthday of the church that began in an upper room in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago. The scripture says, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and filled all the house where they were sitting... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:1-2, 4a) We will celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church this Sunday.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am:

1-312-626-6799 or
1-346-248-7799

And when prompted for a Meeting ID enter:
867 5713 3623 #

The wind of the Holy Spirit that blew on Pentecost still blows among us. May we be aware of its presence and respond to it. I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday. Don't forget to wear something red for that is the color that symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

You are special to me.

God Bless You, Edd

Valley Christian Church

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 31, 2020

PRELUDE

“Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Mighty wind of God,
People: Blow through our homes.
Leader: Stir us to praise,
People: Lift us from despair.
Leader: Holy fire of God,
People: Encourage our spirits,
Leader: Heat up our compassion,
People: Burn away our fear.
Leader: Mighty wind and holy fire,
People: Revive us again,
Leader: Set loose our joy,
People: And let us sing your praise.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

My loving Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

INVOCATION

Eternal God, it seems not so long ago we were celebrating Advent, the birth of the Christ child and now we celebrate another advent: the coming of your spirit among us and the creation of your church. We are grateful for the church symbolized in our homes. Fill our hearts and lives with Pentecost power as we worship today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Act 2:1-4

MEDITATION

“When the Spirit Took Over”
See Insert for Meditation

HYMN

“The Wonderful Words of Life”

*Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty,
teach me faith and duty:*

Refrain:

*Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life;
beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.*

*Christ, the blessed One, gives to all
wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call,
wonderful words of life;
all so freely given,
wooing us to heaven: [Refrain]*

*Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
sanctify forever, [Refrain]*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Enliven your people again. We need your warmth, for fear and distrust are affecting our society. We need your guidance, for old ways are hard to give up and the new ways in our day are hard to define.

Come, Holy Spirit. We need your comfort in our world as the sadness of the Coronavirus wraps around many people in unending grief. We need your power, for greed and violence that is present in every level of society and also often present in our souls. Come, Holy Spirit. We need your courage to live as people of peace in an angry and hurried world. We need your love to bind up the wounded, lift up the poor, and feed the hungry. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

A bit of bread and a bit of wine, a small blessing and the invitation into our lives of the Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit, be at the holy tables in our homes as we receive the blessing of God.

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

"Spirit of the Living God"

*Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me
Melt me mold me Fill me use me
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, "Take eat and take drink."

**SHARING OUR
OFFERING
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering and special Pentecost offering with the church by mail or bring it by the church office. Thank you for your love gifts.

**OFFERTORY
PRAYER**

O God, you have not withheld your grace from us. We will not withhold our gifts from you. We thank you for the joy our money may bring to others and for the joy you enable us to experience in giving. Amen.

**CLOSING
HYMN**

"Into My Heart"

*Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today,
Come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.*

BENEDICTION

May the winds of the Spirit move your body to praise and celebration.
May the fire of Pentecost fill you with holy energy.
May the mighty surge of God's power turn your world upside down.

My whole being thirsts for God.



Psalm 42:2

MEDITATION

Sunday, May 31, 2020

“When the Spirit Took Over”

A fourth grade Sunday School class was doing a lesson on the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Everything was going along very nicely. One little girl did a marvelous presentation about God, another little boy talked about Jesus, but when it came time to talk about the Holy Spirit, there was no one who stood up to talk about the Holy Spirit. There was absolute silence for a few minutes until finally, one little girl explained what was happening. She said, “Teacher, the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit is absent”.

In many ways, we have to confess that when it comes time for someone to talk about the Holy Spirit in our churches, they are absent too.

There seems to be lots of confusion and lack of understanding about just what is the Holy Spirit. We can talk a lot about God and Jesus, but what about the Holy Spirit?

This lack of conversation about the Holy Spirit is reflected in how much we are aware of Christmas and Easter in our church every year, yet we don't give attention to this day of Pentecost. Today is the birthday of the church. The day when we remember that the Holy Spirit is the source of power for the church.

Therefore, this morning I would like for us to look at what exactly happened on that very first Pentecost Sunday. The scriptures say that Jesus ascended into heaven and the disciples, following His instructions, waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The disciples went back to the upper room where they had had communion with the Lord forty days earlier to wait for the Holy Spirit to come.

So they sit and wait. And they were not very good at waiting. I can just imagine them grumbling and griping.

“This waiting is driving me crazy! How long do we have to hang around here, anyway?”

(over)

“We don't know anything about this Holy Spirit. I have never seen any Holy Spirit. I mean, how do we know it really exists?”

Maybe we misunderstood him. We have been here a long time and nothing has happened.”

“Maybe no Holy Spirit is coming after all, maybe it is over.”

“May we should just give up and go back to our old lives.”

“No.” says Peter. “We wait. He told us the Holy Spirit will come, and I believe Him. With all my heart, I believe Him.”

Just at that moment they heard something, a strange sound, the sound like the rush of mighty wind, and it blew in their room filling them all with the Holy Spirit. The wind of the Holy Spirit came, and they received courage and confidence and strength and new life. Through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, they became the church of the living God on that Pentecost day.

The main blessing of that day is that the Holy Spirit gave them the power for whatever they might have to face. The disciples received on that Pentecost Sunday a power they never dreamed possible. They were not afraid to proclaim the gospel in some dangerous situations. They were empowered.

Likewise, if we are spirit-filled, we will have the power to change what needs to be changed in our lives. The power to face whatever we might have to face.

There is a power beyond ourselves that ultimately we can depend on. That is important for us to remember, especially as we live in a culture that believes we can solve our problems completely on our own. We think we have the power in ourselves only.

But Pentecost reminds us that whatever needs to be done in our lives and the world is going to require a lot more than our human efforts. We are going to need the power of the Holy Spirit in our own human lives. We need to remember that our own human power cannot begin to match the power of God made known to us in the Holy Spirit. Amen.