

Pentecost – Whitsunday – Sunday 28 May 2023

• Acts 2.1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104.26-36; 1 Corinthians 12.1-13 or Acts 2.1-21; John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-52

Out of Egypt but now in the wilderness, the people complain to Moses that manna is not enough – they want meat. Moses complains to God about the burden of leadership and God says he will put some of his spirit on 70 elders to share out the responsibility. It happens and Moses is glad. This is also just what happened at Pentecost, and ever since – God’s Spirit is given to all believers so that we can share in mission and ministry, and no one has to carry all the load. How good is that?!

- Thank God that his Spirit equips us all and pray that we may know and do our part.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Text: Jan D St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

Reflection

He was sitting on a rock, to the side of the path leading to the summit of the mountain. I was a little behind my friend, who was striding ahead, each pilgrim in our prayerful, peace-filled and silent ascent up this sacred walk in Korea. This was a day to set aside the many meetings and discussions of World Council of Churches, Korea, to be refreshed and restored with God. I was one of thousands who had made this ascent, as was this gentle, wise-one, leaning on his stick made from what was once a twisted branch. He called to me, smiling and beckoning me over, “Friend! Friend! Hello!” I smiled back, and at his invitation, sat on the flat rock next to him. We began a conversation, an Emmaus journey. He shared his story, how strangers from overseas had become firm friends and significant allies during the war years. He relived his trauma, tears streaming down his face, his body racked with sobs. He spoke of the support received, the food and water given, the shelter and wounds tended by strangers whom he had never met. He recalled the friendship offered when he felt only darkness of fear and hate. He respectfully shook my hand and held it, as we prayed words of thanks and joy. In these ten minutes or so of sharing, we felt the presence of God’s Spirit between us and surrounding us. On farewelling him, we wished each other well, and he waved to my friend who was waiting up the pathway. As she and I continued to walk, she asked about what we had shared. When I explained, she stopped and looked at me, and said, “But Anne, he was speaking in Korean.” Pentecost may seem unimaginable. Yet the Spirit draws us into partnership and friendship that transcends culture, practices, differences and language. When we listen with Jesus as we walk alongside each other, we find connection, understanding and unity that transcends expectations. The Spirit enables the reality of a Pentecost Partnership, togetherness, as God’s people, that seemingly defies our human logic. Paul clarifies this even further - that though we are many, with different expressions and ‘parts’ of the whole body of Christ, God sees us only as God’s beloved ones, in all our

delightful differences, innately connected and beautifully different. A Pentecost partnership sinewed with love.

Rev Anne Hewitt 28/05/2023



HOLY INNOCENTS ANGLICAN CHURCH BELAIR

Readings - Sunday 28 May 2023 – Pentecost Day

Sentence

‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,’ says the Lord; ‘and let the one who believes in me drink. For out of your heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ *John 7.38*

Collect

Almighty God,
at the feast of Pentecost
you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
empower us with that same Spirit
to witness to your redeeming love
and draw all people to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 2.1-21

¹ 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.' 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."

For the word of the Lord, *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 104.26-36

²⁶ Lord, how various are your works:

**in wisdom you have made them all,
and the earth is full of your creatures.**

²⁷ There is the wide, immeasurable sea:

there move living things without number, great and small;

²⁸ There go the ships, to and fro:

**and there is that Leviathan
whom you formed to sport in the deep.**

²⁹ These all look to you:

to give them their food in due season.

³⁰ When you give it to them, they gather it:

**when you open your hand
they are satisfied with good things.**

³¹ When you hide your face, they are troubled:

**when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.**

³² When you send forth your spirit they are created:

and you renew the face of the earth.

³³ May the glory of the Lord endure for ever:

may the Lord rejoice in his works.

³⁴ If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble:

if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke.

³⁵ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:

I will praise my God while I have any being.

³⁶ May my meditation be pleasing to him:

for my joy shall be in the Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.1-13

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

For the word of the Lord, *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: John 20.19-23

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

New Revised Standard Version of the Bible - Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. All rights reserved.