

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, June 5th, Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:25-35, 37b, Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17, 25-27

The Holy Spirit abides in each of us. In my mind at least there are two aspects to this concept of abiding. That we recognize and acknowledge that spirit of God is within and around each of us. This is one aspect of what I've been saying around the summary of the law the two commandments. Not so much worrying about loving God as receiving the love of God. And so, opening our hearts and spirits to receive the spirit abiding in and around us.

Therefore, God's spirit abiding in us and recognizing it means trust and patience. This seems to suggest the eastern understanding of happiness. We may not be able to control what is happening to us, the external but we can control our response our feelings and reactions. In other words, not letting the external bother us.

This is where patience and trust come in. Peace that we can get through the future and our present situation if it is not good.

In Romans Paul talks about all of us being children of God, heirs. being part of the family part of the community.

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday. The icon for Trinity Sunday, the three sitting around the table is also called the hospitality icon. About Abraham welcoming the three angels.

So it is not just recognizing the spirit of God within us as individuals, but within others as well. So it is not only about us taking our place in community taking responsibility for the talents and blessings that God has given us to use them for the benefit of others and community, but realizing that the spirit of abiding in others means we can benefit from the spirit of God abiding in them and reap the benefit of their talent and blessing.

Pentecost, 50 days after Easter. The beginning of the church. Let us celebrate that beginning by recognizing what that means in terms of all the benefits that can bring us.

Yes, the road ahead is not without its bumps and problems as it was for the early church after Pentecost, but it was filled with hope and possibilities.

It is understandable that any way forward would have some sense of a feeling of trepidation but that's where the peace and trust come in, trust in God, and maybe trust in neighbour as well.

I remember going from the church camp in Quebec moving to Sudbury to a United Church and then back to the church camp.

I realized when I got back to the church camp how comfortable I felt in both places. And it dawned on me because sometimes I'm slow in picking up these things, it was the same spirit in both places.

So, although each one of us is an individual with our own talents and blessings It is the same spirit in and around each one of us.

It has been said before that God acts first, and we respond. Or to put it another way can we pass on love that we have not received for ourselves?

So perhaps Pentecost is about receiving the love of God and realizing the spirit of God abiding in us, and then passing it on.

Maybe we receive that love of God directly but often we receive it from loved ones and therefore our neighbors. And then pass it on.

Amen

Pentecost Prayer. God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit. be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen.