

Pentecost Sunday May 31 2020 Worship at Home Lect A

Preparing for worship:

Good morning – welcome to worship

I hope you are able to gather everyone in your household together this morning. If you are not alone - assign parts of this beforehand. If you don't have a Bible you can google the scripture readings and print them out too. Perhaps print out copies of this for everyone present. This Liturgy is from the ELCA Worship Blog. Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths. The Hymns are from WOV, ELW & LBW books. **Today is a holy celebration day so the color red, dominates. Have a red cloth, or candles, or red yarn as your centre piece. Wind & fire are symbols so silver, white & red ribbons or streamers can be used too. Use what you already have . . .**

The Gathering

Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Hymn WOV 719: God is Here

The Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word Acts 2: 1-21 Psalm 104:24-34,35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20: 19-23

Sermon

Peace be with you! Receive the Holy Spirit

From the noted French physicist and chemist Marie Curie(1867-1934):

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. NOW is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less”

We are sandwiched now between what was normal and what will be a new normal in our lives. Since March 14th Ontario has been under emergency orders to “lock down” and stay distanced. We have all had disappointments or frustrations and whether we wish to acknowledge it or not we have to face the fact that we are all mourning, we are all grieving. We are still here and as healthy as our individual bodies allow. We have what we need, and there have very creative alternatives to how we function, celebrate or mourn.

From a 7 year old’s perspective come these words, “I miss school, my friends, Brownies, sports, my cousins, even just playing in the park!” These are words of lament. Children are not alone, as we adults miss all those social contacts too, and so we also grieve. Every facet of social interaction has changed. There have been many “little deaths”, and there is no postponing grief. So give yourself some room to do just that.

“Fewer and fewer of us now believe that after this crisis, life will just go back to the way it was. It is becoming clearer that life on the “other side” will be indelibly and irrevocably changed,” states Nathan Kirkpatrick. Nathan is a Director of Leadership Education at Duke University.

So I am joyful that we celebrate the in blowing of the Holy Spirit today who will help us to move forward together and separately. I pray that Spirit opens up all of our collective creativity to vision ahead. It seems that every 500 years the church universal re-forms itself and our time has arrived. We will not be returning to “normal” in our faith communities. It will be a “new normal”. Organizational leaders are doing ministry and working while we are waiting for the Ontario government and the Ont. Public Health to dictate the opening of institutions. They will lay out the best protocols that we will have to follow or live by. We will be pragmatic. We know that our world will be permanently changed.

While all this is happening we all need to dig deep down into our creativity and develop multiple visions of the future. If we have to wait for a vaccine or treatment to be developed that could take months! Never, never, never, give up! No idea is too small or silly. Trust me! We must hold fast to what we believe in.

We will have to reimagine how we do everything in our faith communities, to adhere to the protocols. We will have to adjust to the various waves of this virus. Our church councils may have to anticipate continuing online worship for a long time. The feelings that this crisis has flared up in people are not going to go away over night. Valid concerns and real anxieties may keep people away from church buildings and groups of people.

I am your Pastor, and you all are the ministers of these two churches. Beyond us we have others who are participating with us, in worship, from England to the United States. Together we shall all need to keep our flexibility and creativity about how we move forward on this journey. We all need to think about how we will live, lead, and serve after this crisis. Whenever you have a new idea write it down and send it to a council member or myself.

The Spirit gives us all differing abilities to use for building each other up. It gives vision and wisdom for all. In our baptism into Christ, God's Spirit has formed us into one body, and that body is quite alive even in our present distance from each other. Now we, in turn — even in this time — are to bear witness to our neighbors and greet the world with peace.

“I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh” Acts 2: 17 We don't have to understand the Holy Spirit. We just have to understand that we need the Holy Spirit.

Theologian, Steven Eason says, “the Christian faith without the Holy Spirit is like a swimming pool without any water in it.”p24,Feasting on the Word:yrA:vol3.

Believers participate in the life of God through the Spirit and the water of abundant life flows through you. I believe that the grace of God will restore us, establish us, and strengthen us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit Come. Amen.

Hymn ELW 396: Spirit of Gentleness

Prayers of the People

On this day of Pentecost we unite in prayer, asking God to send the Holy Spirit on the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the globe:

For the Eastern Orthodox churches, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

For the Roman Catholic church, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

For Protestant and Lutheran and Anglican churches, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

For Pentecostal churches, we pray, **Come, Holy Spirit!**

For evangelicals and independents, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

For our own congregation, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

And for everyone who searches for you, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Restore with your breath the whole creation, especially the lands and waters laden with pollution and the animals whose habitats are threatened. For your earth, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Send your Spirit on the leaders of nations, on legislators, and on judges, that the people of the world will benefit from your justice and your peace. For the nations of the world, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Visit all who are suffering, all who feel hopeless, and all who face death. Send healing to those we name here before you *especially*For all who are in need, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Restore to health those who have contracted the virus. Uphold health-care workers, grant jobs to those who are unemployed, and assist researchers in discovering a vaccine. For all who are confronting the coronavirus, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Bless those who are graduating from schools and universities. Give our youth hope for their future. For our graduates we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Show our nation and our churches how to connect with those whose language we cannot speak. For the speakers of every language under the sun we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

As Elizabeth welcomed Mary to her home, give us ways during this time to share with one another the faithfulness we receive from you. Surprise us with unexpected grace. For family members and friends, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Hear also the cries of our own hearts. For ourselves, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Receive our praise for all who for centuries have gone before us in the faith, from the first Pentecost, throughout Christian history, and up to this week That at the end we and all the saints will rejoice in your presence, we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Let us pray:

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration as this, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us with your words, for service in your world, in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen**

Hymn LBW 486: Spirit of God descend upon my heart

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal:

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ☩ bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Send forth your Spirit, O God,
and renew the face of the earth. Amen