



# **Pentecost in a Time of Quarantine**

**Praying**

**Worshipping**

**Connecting**

**Church of the  
Holy Comforter  
Montgomery, AL**

# What we have to offer

## Celebrating Pentecost

It's often called the Birthday of the Church. For our parish it is our own special feast day. We are used to having a day of drama, color, excitement, above all celebration!

In this paradoxical time of distance and togetherness, we hope as many of you as possible will join us to discover a new way to celebrate and honor this day. Yes! We stop once again to sing heartily, "Hail thee festival day!" Yes! If you have just a cookie or a muffin or a cupcake, stop and sing Happy Birthday to the Church. Yes, follow the instructions in last week's eBooklet and make some kind of mini banner to wave as we sing our way out of the Zoom gathering for Prayer, Coffee and Conversation at 11:30 am tomorrow. Do all those wonderful things.

And then remember this. According to Luke, the last thing Jesus did for his friends before he slipped away and was no longer present in a particular place or moment with them, was to bless them. To offer from God what empowered them to do and be what they had been intended for: to become the Body of Christ, ever present, ever moving through the world to help usher in God's Kingdom. We wear red on Pentecost, not just to remember that Christ was willing to give everything, even his life, for his friends. Red is the color of great love. And it is love even we are capable of giving that heals, that renews and restores and raises up all things to the fullness of life!

Today, here's what this eBooklet includes:

1. The readings from Hebrew Scriptures, Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, the Psalm and the Gospel.
2. Links to live-streamed worship services for Pentecost. We will also include links you can turn to during the week for refreshment and prayer.
3. As always, at 8 tomorrow morning we will post a short video on Facebook and our webpage.

Thank you to Randy Foster, Michael and Roy Paul, Terri Via, Missy Via, Ann Montgomery, and Jeri Tippit, for the energy, creativity and deep reverence they bring as we continue to stay connected and be together in joy even in though we are apart! Happy Pentecost, my wonderful friends and family. I miss and love you!

## *The Readings*

### **The Collect**

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The First Lesson**

#### **Numbers 11:24-30**

Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

#### **Psalm 104:25-35, 37**

- 25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! \*  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 26 Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.
- 27 There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.

- 28 All of them look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- 30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; \*  
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.
- 33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 34 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; \*  
I will praise my God while I have my being.
- 35 May these words of mine please him; \*  
I will rejoice in the LORD.
- 37 Bless the LORD, O my soul. \*  
Hallelujah!

## **The New Testament**

### **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 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. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. 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. 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.

## The Gospel

### John 20:19-23

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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### *Links*

Each year, we hear Jesus speak to the fear, distrust and grief with the kind of clarity and kindness that helps a shattered community begin to heal. What the post-resurrection visits from Jesus mean may be clearer if you read all the readings appointed for this Sunday in this eBooklet.

Click [here](#) for Washington National Cathedral's Sunday Holy Eucharist online, May 31 at 10:15 AM (cdt),

For Rosa's Sunday morning video, visit our Facebook page [here](#). Also available on our website, [here](#).

For daily meditations from Forward Day by Day, [click here](#). Or to listen to a prayer, [here](#).



## *Activities*

Tomorrow (Pentecost Sunday), we will have a couple of ways to celebrate and be joyful in the Spirit of God. Here are things you can do to add to that joy and celebration:

1. Please be sure to join our Zoom gathering at 11:30. The link to our gathering is:  
Rosa Lindahl is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84029245412?pwd=S1djdzRNGJPe0pqMERiMXREZjJWZz09>*

Meeting ID: 840 2924 5412

Password: 830051

To join by phone, please call +1 312 626 6799 US and use the Meeting ID and Password above to access our gathering.

Wear your loudest, most outrageous red attire possible. You might accessorize it with other red “accoutrements” if you have them.

In last week’s eBooklet, we included instructions to make a mini-banner with a pencil and other simple materials. Have it with you so we can all wave our banners together at the end of our gathering when we will be ushered out of the gathering with a glorious rendition of Hail The Festival Day performed by Randy on our beloved organ.

2. This activity is, in some respects, the total opposite of the first. One way we describe the Holy Spirit is to say it is the breath of life. We don’t usually pay a lot of attention to our own breath or even consider how our breathing might join with the graciousness of the Spirit’s breath of life. Yet through the ages, breathing has been a way of becoming aware of the deep and everlasting connection between the triune God and us.

At least once a day, in this next week, find a quiet place where you can sit comfortably, perhaps even where you might have set up a small space for prayer. You may choose to close your eyes but that’s not essential. Pay attention to your breathing and let it become slow and deep, in order to do a very different kind of prayer than perhaps you are used

to. As you breathe in, imagine you are absorbing the pain, fear, sorrow and brokenness of this time in the world. Christ taught us that in accepting and carrying the sorrows of the world, he (and we) could open room for more grace to move about in peace and love. As you exhale, pray with these words or something similar, “I pray grace and healing, strength and hope that comes from God.”

Is this some kind of magic incantation? Absolutely not. What we are offered in this kind of prayer is the opportunity to be more aware of the world as it is, and in this season of Pandemic, it is an aching world. We are also reminded that as we practice asking God’s grace to move in the world, we ourselves often find we become more willing to be instruments of that grace and love. In blessing, we are blessed, in loving, we are loved.