

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, May 20, 2018)

Share:

Pentecost is the Church's birthday. This day celebrates the Holy Spirit calling us together and making it possible for us to gather and communicate, even when we are so different from one another. In our current culture, we often fail to communicate well – even when we speak that same language. It seems we need the Holy Spirit more in every age.

"Pepsi brings your ancestors back from the grave." It is hard to believe that this translated slogan has been used in China to promote the famous cola. The soda giant translated the original slogan "Pepsi brings you back to life" into Mandarin meaning "Pepsi brings your ancestors back from the grave."

(from Homiletics Online)

Read these words from a hymn today:

Lord, Dismiss Us

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, Your love possessing;
triumph in redeeming grace,
O refresh us, O refresh us,
travelling through this wilderness.

How does time with God refresh you?

Read this scripture from worship: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Talk together, responding to these questions:

How important is it to communicate face to face? Is that different from texting?

How is the power of the holy Spirit working in you?

Where is the Holy Spirit kicking our church into high gear?

Pray together:

Holy One, come into my heart this morning and give me eyes to see throughout this day all the ways that you rule. Put your Holy Spirit power to work in my life and empower me to be a witness to Christ, that my life may be a song of thanksgiving to you. Strengthen my hope and bless the work of my hands that I may live as a member of Christ's body in this world. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."