

Pentecost Healing Service – 31st May 2020

Sermon by The Ven Revd Andy Wooding Jones

Pentecost 2020

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?”

8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[b] 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 “In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Introduction

- A joy to be with you virtually on this day of Pentecost
- A day to remember
- A day to rejoice
- A day to recommit

Together

- In Acts 2 v1 we read that they were all together in one place.
- As we meet virtually we are aware that we are not physically together. The followers of Jesus had been in a lockdown prayer meeting in the Upper Room and although they had probably moved to the temple precincts the sense of being together was important.
- They had waited following Jesus' instructions since his Ascension – joined together constantly in prayer.
- Sense of unity important – with God's help we have discovered we can be 'together' even if apart

Suddenly

- They were waiting – but without knowing what or when – *Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*"
- Suddenly!! They were ready even in the surprise – are we ready for God's surprises? We may feel like we are in the middle of something surprising and sudden right now – what is God asking of us?

Enabled

- What God asks of us requires us to be equipped by God.
- Jesus' followers knew they couldn't manage alone. God by his Spirit mobilises and uses them – in new ways, in unexpected ways, in his ways
- Speak in other tongues
- Understood by people from the nations
- Raise response – what does this mean?
- Attract ridicule – too much wine?
- Peter who had denied knowing Jesus weeks ago confidently addresses the crowd both interpreting what is going on – this fulfils Joel's prophesy and reminds them – they can call on God and be saved (3000 added to their number that day)

Application

- Finding together – even when virtual – by seeking God, by supporting each other, by serving those around us – actively or cheering on
- Be ready for God's suddenly – some of us don't like surprises – but God may be surprising us
- Don't be independent – we need God enabling us by His Spirit – mobilising us, equipping us and helping us live Holy lives/