

Pentecost 2018

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

I used to think that human beings were uniquely 'meaning-making' creatures. Give us raw material and events in time and we will begin to create ideas and theories that make sense of available facts. For instance, when I come home and see the lamp I had turned off in the morning is on, I make the assumption that someone was, or is in the house. (I could also be suspicious that I am being gas-lit, but that's a different story).

But now I feel that position is too heavily weighted upon our cerebral cortex. No doubt, thinking is a unique aspect of human being, yet somehow something is missing. We speak of people living in their heads and defending themselves with intellect with good cause.

It seems to me, the capacity to feel is of at least equal importance with thinking. Unfettered feelings provide us with a broad panoply of emotional colors with which to paint our world. Thinking has a way of defending against the more raw and wild realm of feelings. Thinking declares hegemony as it denigrates feelings and in so doing hogs conscious bandwidth. How are you feeling, gets answered with a rote, "fine." What do you want is reduced to a list of pros and cons, but the deep desire of the soul is left wanting.

On the eve of Pentecost this year, I find myself reading about people who had their cognitive faculties overwhelmed by raw Holy Spirit. These early disciples found that even their speech functions had been overwhelmed by Spirit! People who heard them speaking in foreign tongues wondered aloud if they were drunk. Which begs the question whether alcohol and other substances are really attempts to touch the depths of life. Unfortunately, we know all too well that it's a different kind of depth that is reached through substance abuse.

As mainline churches fall out of fashion, one can easily ask why? What is it that people are searching for and not finding? I am suspecting that we have become too intellectually defended against the raw life of the Spirit that involves our whole existence, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually, etc. We have the delusion that we can control life with intellect, but as John's gospel says, "The Spirit listeth where it will."

That capricious freedom, described in the book of Acts, beginning on the day of Pentecost, cannot be legislated, organized, or planned. It unnerves and undermines the certainties of life. That Holy Spirit breaks down the disciples' ideas of nationality, ethnicity and even personal property. In a world where we have daily planners, financial planners, wedding planners and every other tool designed to manage the chaos, the Spirit calls us out to be citizens in the vast boundless universe that extends infinitely in time and space. In this cosmic realm we encounter fellow travelers on the path towards a fuller experience of the divinity of existence.

When the church reclaims this Pentecostal Spirit of liberation and moves beyond its arid intellectualism, I suspect (some of) the world will beat a path to its door.

Please join us this Sunday, May 20th, at 10am as we celebrate the birthday of the Church, that is the Pentecostal coming of the Holy Spirit "Like a mighty wind" upon those first disciples.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Steven Yagerman

## **Mark your Calendar!**

### **May 20<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost Sunday**

Please come and share this special day. We will have guest singers enriching our choir giving us the opportunity to sing this amazing music. "I thank You God for most this amazing day" by e e cummings has been set to music by Eric Whitacre. He paints every word with warm colors, shimmering, and blending in a magical way.

Two settings of one of the oldest Gregorian chants, Ubi Caritas, translated, "Where charity and love are, God is there" will be sung. The first setting is probably the most well-known by Maurice Durufle. The second setting was composed in 2001 by Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo.

I hope the music this week will wash over you and bring the spirit of Pentecost into your heart.

### **June 3<sup>rd</sup> - All Saints Levy Choir School Open House**

Please encourage your little friends 4th grade thru 7th grade to come participate and see how much fun singing can be.

### **June 10<sup>th</sup> - All Saints Levy Choir School Appreciation Sunday**

The choristers will sing during worship and receive their medals from the Royal School of Church Music. The service will follow with a church cookout in the garden.