

# The Holy Spirit At Pentecost

August 11, 2024

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ online ministry. This week's service is titled The Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Thank you to Glynnis, Dave, Janet and Don for being part of the service. The scripture reading is Acts 1, 1 to 5. Happy anniversary to Mary and Brian and happy birthday to Len and to Robin.

## Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Well good morning my friends. It's good to see everybody. It is a gorgeous summer day and it's awesome to be here with all of you and to worship God together and say hello to each other and catch up with each other. Some of us have been away, some of us are going away and it's just even if you don't go away just being outside is so lovely. Anyway I hope you were able to get out this weekend because I think this was the yesterday was one of the lowest humidity days that we're going to have in quite some time. So we have a few announcements.

Stacey apparently has got a new apartment in St. Catharines and she's in need of kitchen items and other kinds of housewares. Speak to her if you would if you're able to help out. We have a chance we are actually we have the opportunity to write letters in support of Viktor as he applies for permanent residency here. And then August 16th we have the opportunity to go to a Japan Mission Dinner. I believe it will be at yes it will be at Tintern and an opportunity to hear from Hiro and Megumi, Joel and Kristen on their work in Mito. The tickets are \$25 and you can get in touch with Margaret at the Tintern office if you're interested. And then beginning on August 7th on Wednesdays we're going to have an evening Bible study on the Psalms of Jesus and I assume that's here. Yep that's here.

Very sadly Kendra Ellis who's a niece to Barb and Don passed away suddenly so sad. Her funeral was yesterday and we continue to pray for all of her family especially her husband and two children. So let's go to God in a word of prayer.

Dearest Lord God, there are a few things sadder than a spouse dying with young children and I pray that you would be with Kendra's husband and her children and with all of her family as they mourn her death. God it is so good to know that you walk with us literally through the valley of the shadow of death and God I pray that you would be the God of all comfort to all of them. God and I pray that you would help those supporting them to be the ears and eyes that they need at this time.

God we thank you so much that you have given us this beautiful country to live in. We thank you for the beautiful summer weather and the flowers and trees that are blooming and just the beauty. Help us to be able to have eyes to see it. It's so easy to get just used to where you are and I pray that we can look at the world around us with new eyes with fresh eyes over and over and over again and just glory in your amazing world. You are so awesome and so sovereign and we are so grateful that you love us.

God it humbles us to think that you the God of not just here life on earth but the entire universe both huge and tiny that you care for us. God we love you so much we thank you that that you have placed us on your heart. God it is beyond it's just beyond even thinking about but we're so grateful. God we love you and we pray that our worship this morning is pleasing to you because we love you and we want to lift you high. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## Communion

There are times, occasions, when families get together. We celebrate at weddings, birthdays, or just if we can be all together. It warms the hearts of siblings, parents, grandparents. We support and comfort at funerals. It's good for us to be here today at the table as a family of believers. We encounter Christ in this communion and are repeatedly touched by God's grace.

We are, I guess, progressively being shaped into Christ's image, if you will. And this is not an in-the-moment thing. This is a progression, a process through which God intends to shape us into His people, more completely motivated by love, empowered and impassioned by the Spirit to continue Christ's work in the world.

One purpose of these simple elements, bread, fruit of the cup, wine, is to remind us of our constant need for nourishment, spiritual nourishment. They are actual physical bread and grape juice. They are changed into spiritual food by how they affect the depths of our hearts by realizing and being reminded of the sacrifice of Christ. They also remind us that our lives are His. We are made in His image.

Even as these elements, these little physical things we held in our hand, are being changed into spiritual food, we too can be transformed by our Spirit, by the Spirit that God has given us. It reminds us too, His grace truly surrounds us. Here we are. We are surrounded by family, by the grace of God. We are believers.

The table, this remembrance celebration, but even in the most mundane matters, the Spirit directs, guides us in sometimes mysterious and wonderful ways. Sometimes they are profound. Sometimes they are remarkably common. Let us pray.

Father, we thank You for Jesus, for Your love, for Your Spirit in each of us. We join together to seek Your face. We trust in the Spirit's guidance for our service and our community as it works in each of us. Give us deepened love for all. May we reflect the grace, the peace, and the love of Christ as we remember with these emblems of Christ's body and His blood, bless us with spiritual nourishment and strength, in Jesus' name.

## Scripture Reading

Okay, the reading today is from Acts chapter 1, verse 1 to 5.

In my former book Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach. Until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my father promised, which you have heard me speak about." For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

## Sermon

### The Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Good morning, everyone. Many of you know about the funeral yesterday of Kendra Whitfield Ellis. She was a wonderful teacher, wonderful preacher, and we enjoyed conversations together, actually dealing with scripture. And I woke up this morning thinking that I don't think I can do this. I don't think I can do this. But I know her. And she would say, Uncle Don, do your job. That's Kendra. She would do her job. And she would expect others of us who are in the same occupation, no matter what, that sometimes you just have to do your job. And the only thing that I could think of preaching today is looking at the experience of first-time Christians, if you will. When Jesus was taken up into heaven, it was something that Jesus said was going to happen. And it's going to happen to us. We know where Kendra is.

It's amazing that she is with the Lord. She is with loved ones. And she's with us. And we are with her. And so I dedicate just some of these words today for Kendra. They aren't really my words. They're words written by Peter, written by Paul. I just want to look at a couple of passages of scripture where it seemed like when Christians started growing, there was all of these evil things coming at them. And it was going to stop the growth of the church. But God is never going to leave that. He's never going to leave that alone.

And so on one occasion, it says while he was eating, Jesus was eating with them. He gave this command. Don't leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my father promised for which you've heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit living in each of us. No man, no woman is an island. We have God, the Father, God, the Son, God, the Holy Spirit living in us with the promise. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I am always with you. We will see her again. So how did this all begin?

Well, in Acts chapter two, there was something interesting. When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together, the Christians one place, but suddenly like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. And they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire on each one of them. And now they were staying in Jerusalem, God fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. And when they heard the sound, they came together and it was bewildering to them. What is this? And then they list all of the names of different countries that are hearing these words, things, people from Parthia for Medes, from Elamites, Pontus and so forth and so forth. And I really don't even know where those countries were, but they were there coming together.

And so Peter, always Peter, stands up with the 11, 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'm about to say. These people are not drunk. Now that's, that's not happening. It's this in these last days, God said, I will pour out my spirit on all people. I love this passage. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. They'll preach. Prophecy isn't just in the next four years, this is going to

happen. Maybe that's part of it. But prophecy is declaring the word of the Lord preaching, prophesying, declaring the word of the Lord. I'm going to pour out my spirit on all people. We have the Holy Spirit living in us. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in these days.

For some reason in churches in the past, it was always a man standing behind a pulpit and preaching. That's just the way it was. But that wasn't the way it was in the Bible. There were men and women who declared the word of the Lord. They preached. And one of the things besides our beautiful Kendra was that not only did she walk along with people in sadness and death and hospitals and so forth, but she preached as sweetly as she lived. It was part of her. People loved when Kendra preached because it was authentic. It was full of God's spirit and it was love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness, faithless, gentleness and control. And people would come to her and talk to her and they would tell her how much they appreciated her and Kendra would quickly dismiss that. She wanted to talk about death. Living and loving in a precious way.

So at Pentecost, it's just too overwhelming. Kendra's passing for me was overwhelming. But these words come. People of Israel, listen to this. Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did among you through him as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God, set purpose and foreknowledge. And you with the help of wicked men put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death. For it was impossible for death to keep its grasp on him. True with Kendra. Is she past? Yes. Is she with the Lord? Yes. Is she with us? Always. So we go through these times.

And as I said to Barb today, I'm not sure I can do this. Kendra would want you to. So they devoted themselves, these apostles, teaching the fellowship, breaking of bread as we've done, prayer, wonders and miraculous signs. All of these things taking place in this one location where the church was going to shoot out far and wide all throughout the world as it is today.

And then these words, salvation is found in no one else. For there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. And when they saw the courage of Peter and John in realize that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men have been with Jesus. Have you been with Jesus? Jesus is in us. So I think it's probably important to reciprocate that. If Jesus is living in us, we need to be living with him for him. His love, his patience, his goodness.

No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything we have. And one of the great things about a church is that we do share. We share spiritually, we share physically, we share listening to people who are hurting and crying. We rejoice with people who are getting married, were sad when people pass, but we also know that God said, I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I'm always with you no matter what. So day after day, Christians gathered together and from a house to house, they couldn't stop proclaiming the good news that Jesus is Lord.

And then the word spread. So many of the disciples increased rapidly. And so in this book of Acts where Paul and Peter and others are sharing, everything's going along great. But you know, Satan has his hand on these things as well. Chapter eight, on that great day, a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Samaria. It'd be like coming in and everybody of some kind of evil thing saying, get out of this church building. Don't ever come back. It's not yours anymore. Don't even think about it. That's the way it was the first century. Christians get lost, get rid of it, nothing anymore. But God wasn't going to let that happen. He never let that happen.

So here was this man, Saul, who wanted to get rid of the church, persecuting the church. And this Saul turns into the name Paul who writes the majority of the Bible and who loves God with all of his heart, soul, mind and strength. And throughout this book of Acts, there are people who are sharing the message. Paul, Peter, Philip, so many people throughout the book, but there was always people trying to negate the church. For example, chapter nine,

Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priests and asked them for letters to the synagogues in Damascus so that if they found any of those who belonged to the way, Christians, whether men or women, that they might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. And as he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. And he fell to the ground and he heard the voice say to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

And Saul asked, who are you, Lord? And then these words, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Get up, go into the city and you'll be told what you must do. And then skipping down in verse nine, for three days, Saul was blind. The Lord called to him. He answered, yes, Lord. He said, go into this house of the street. And he talks about the person that they're going to see. Then he says, but the Lord said to Ananias, this man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and the kings before the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he has to suffer for my name.

See, yesterday there was joy. With suffering. No words, just lots of hugs. Sometimes there were funny things, sharing about ministry, chatting. But more than anything else, everybody just wanted to come together. Just to be together. Chat, share. Oh, and the singing. Oh, my goodness, the singing. I thought with the music that was played at this funeral, if that's heaven's music, it surely must be. Because it's not just the melody, it's the words in the shirt. In the shirt. So, as we go through this wonderful Bible that we have, we just remember that preaching is important. That was her life. The council is important. That was her life. But that she knew that she could come along people, and they knew they were safe with her. Brief message today. May we do the same. Amen.

## Closing

Thank you, Don. It really is amazing to think about, as that last song said, really is amazing to think about heaven. It really is amazing to think about the life forever that we will have with God, that we already have with God. And for that we can be so grateful. And I know I am especially grateful all the time for her. His Spirit that lives in me and teaches me, helps me to transform, helps me to change, helps me to see beauty. In people, in places. Let's pray together.

Dearest Lord God, thank you so much for your Spirit. God, thank you so much for breath. God, just as breath is critical to our survival, God, so is your Spirit, God. And I pray that we will be, try to be in tune this week as we go out into our lives and to try and listen, be attentive to the Spirit, God, to be more sensitive to the Spirit's prodding.

God, we love you so much. We are so, so grateful that you have called us to be your people, to be your kingdom, to be your feet and hands in our world. God, I pray that as we go out into the week, you would help us to be those things, to be able to reflect for ourselves, but also to help and teach others about you because you are so awesome. You're the best thing that has ever happened to us, bar none. God, we love you. We thank you. We're so grateful for each other and it's in Jesus' name that I pray. Amen.

Have a great week.

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