

Pentecost Sunday

5-31-2020

J.V.Trautwein

Celebrate (Introduction)

“Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presence within and among us. In Acts, the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God’s presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God’s redeeming love to all the world.

Opening Hymn: [“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”](#)

Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
26 There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
27 These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
28 when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
30 When you send forth your spirit,^[a] they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
32 who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.
35b Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!

Hymn of Praise: [“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”](#)

Prayer of the Day

“O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading: [Acts: 2:1-21](#)

2nd Reading: [1 Corinthians 12:3-13](#)

The Gospel: [John 20:19-23](#)

Hymn of the Day: [“Spirit of God Descend Upon Heart”](#)

The Message ([Video Link](#))

Many long years ago, yet it seems like yesterday, in the summer of 1964, I attended the New York World’s Fair. I still can still vividly remember riding through the Disney exhibit of “It’s a Small World.” The [song](#) still resonates in my mind.

“It's a small world after all

It's a small world after all

It's a small world after all

It's a small, small world”

I was amazed to find out that this is the most listened to song of all time. Its popularity is in large part because every Disney theme park throughout the world has a “small world exhibit” which plays this song over and over again in various languages. (I have a link to the video of Disneyland’s version as a postlude to today’s worship.) It is not only the simple melodious tune that has made this song so popular but its lyrics which tell a message that is so important and is so ageless. Traveling through the exhibit and hearing the song sung in different languages according the animated displays, the message of how small the world is and how we are a part of it comes alive. It’s message dramatically emphasizes that although we may speak different languages, dress differently, and have different customs, we are one with the rest of the world. Perhaps if we begin each new day in singing or listening to this simple but beautiful song the world would become smaller and a better place to live.

In many ways this could be the hymn for today’s celebration of Pentecost. The Pentecost experience was first the anointing of the disciples through the rushing winds surrounding them and the tongues as of fire upon them. This was a sign that God’s presence after the resurrection

was very much alive among those who believed the life and message of Jesus. It fulfilled Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit as recorded by John, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." This Pentecost experience was also the verification of Jesus words to His disciples in the upper room following His resurrection. "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."

Through this Pentecost experience the disciples were now brought to the realization of Jesus' commission to them and all who followed the life of Jesus, the church, then and throughout the ages. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

But the Pentecost experience and message didn't stop there. It vividly proclaimed that with God's presence, the Holy Spirit, people worldwide are one even in their diversity. On that original Pentecost day upon being filled with the Holy Spirit they began to speak in various languages. "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?'" In knowing God's presence in each other, no matter how diverse we may be in language, culture, or race, we are one and thus understand that we share the same love of God. We know that "It's a small world after all," "It's a world of laughter, a world of tears. It's a world of hopes and a world of fears. There's so much that we share. That it's time we're aware It's a small world after all." These words of the beloved song seem to be timeless and relevant for everybody. We all experience the same life with all of its needs, hopes, and dreams as well its times of trial and despair. This has become quite evident as the pandemic has touched us all in one way or another. If we allow ourselves, we now can better understand each other because we share in this common experience.

In the same manner, when we realize that the presence of God is within us we become aware that we are one with each other and love is the result. It is when we fail to see that we are one in God's sight, one in the presence of God, that we fail as individuals and as a society. In so many ways this is what we are experiencing today – a broken people and society. To see an increasing dual system of justice and blatant disregard for another's life is a sign of deep trouble and a future left to wander in continuing despair and divisiveness. How many Minneapolis disasters do we need to wake us up? When will we see that when justice is not equal for all there is not justice for all. Within days a man of low status was essentially brutally murdered for passing a forged check while an affluent privileged class woman was exonerated before any trial for violating inside information in a stock market transaction. There is an increasing dual standard of justice which will eventually lead to disaster.

We drastically need the experience of the Pentecost to shake us into reality so that the beauty of God's love as seen through the popular song can be realized. "There is just one moon and one

golden sun

And a smile means friendship to everyone. Though the mountains divide And the oceans are wide

It's a small world after all....It's a small, small world."

The Anthem: ["Song of Peace"](#) Agne Giedraityte

The Offering*

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Ever present and loving God, in the midst of trial, turmoil, and divisiveness let us realize that your presence is with us to give us the wisdom, love and strength to overcome the challenges that face us. Direct us to help bring peace and justice to a fractured nation and world. Let us reach out and touch those who are hurting and in need of your love. Our world indeed is a small world which cries out for the comforting and loving presence which you have shown us through the life and message of Jesus. Instill within us your Spirit of truth that we are your loving arms which can bring healing to those who are suffering and persecuted needlessly. Continue to bring safety and well-being to those who are in harm's while way fighting the deadly virus.

We pray for all whole need your comforting and healing presence, especially Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Billy Jean Eddy & family, the Elshafei family, Betty Fultz, Darrell Garrison, the John Family, Robert Karner, Ray Lambert, Donna Mayhew, Bev and Jim Mertz, Nic Nelson, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Terre Rones, Paul Sagal, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Tommy Shimer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Linda Stephens, Randy Stephens, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Pastor Jack, and all those who are suffering pain, and sorrow as a result of this pandemic.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters

Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only come through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["Love Devine All Loves Excelling"](#)

Postlude: ["It's A Small World"](#) Disneyland

*Offering to be sent to:
Bob Brackbill
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Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
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