



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Day of Pentecost, May 23, 2021

Pentecost, Day of the Indwelling

by Mr. Daniel H. Wilcox

Romans 8:22-27

8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;

8:23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

8:24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

8:27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Today, we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church, the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after the resurrection. On that day, the Holy Ghost anointed the disciples of Jesus Christ who are unified in prayer and praise, imbuing the awaiting fellowship with spiritual presence and power. This anointing engenders a second birth to life with God, eternal fellowship with the Almighty.

The writer of Romans prescribes the necessity of the second birth for believers. All creation has awaited the emergence of the fellowship in Jesus Christ empowered by an immersion in the holiness and righteousness of the Eternal One. The blood of Jesus Christ, not only cleanses us from sinfulness, but also infuses our souls and minds with authentic piety inspiring lives of purity. The Holy Ghost intercedes in prayer and petition for our well-being, even when all we can do is groan. The Holy Ghost, cognizant of God's will, guides us to a virtuous life obedient to divine direction and commandments. This discloses a new gateway for eternal life, the second birth, also called the second baptism.

The fulfilled promise of the Holy Ghost yields the birth of the Church and believers as its fruits. Therefore, let us willingly receive the gift of the Holy Ghost as adopted children of God, born of the Spirit and heirs of the Holy Church Triumphant.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you sensed the presence of God on your life and in your spirit? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY:

Almighty God, who on this day did open the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of the Holy Ghost: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, On God, now and forever. Amen.

Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer

ACT: On this day of Pentecost, join a small group of believers praying for the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Seek the presence of God in your midst and share your thoughts and feelings among the group. Journal your experience and reflect on your Pentecost journey. Do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available—See: <http://www.amehealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

3. Visit iamame.org for additional Pentecost worship resources offered by the AMEC Publishing House.

4. Read the 2021 Pentecost Message from the Presidents of the World Council of Churches: English: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/pentecost-message-from-the-wcc-presidents-2021>

Français: <https://www.oikoumene.org/fr/resources/documents/pentecost-message-from-the-wcc-presidents-2021>

Español: <https://www.oikoumene.org/fr/resources/documents/pentecost-message-from-the-wcc-presidents-2021>

5. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated between 18-25 January in the northern hemisphere. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity. The theme for the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is based on John 15:1-17:

English: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021>

Français: <https://www.oikoumene.org/fr/resources/documents/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021>

Español: <https://www.oikoumene.org/es/resources/documents/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021>

Portuguese: <https://www.oikoumene.org/pt-pt/resources/documents/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021>

Song: Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire
AMEC Hymnal, #194

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointed Spirit art,
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Refrain
Praise to Thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of Thy grace;
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where Thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And Thee, of both, to be but one;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.