

It's daybreak.
Morning!

A New Day!

Chock full of brand new possibilities.

"... the past is finished and gone,
everything has become fresh and new!" 2 Corinthians 5. 17

If that's true —God's promise — for any ol' ordinary new day,

Oh My Gosh, what about for The Day of Pentecost?

What's possible — in God's Creative Imagination — today?

Here's one way to live into today's potential and promise:

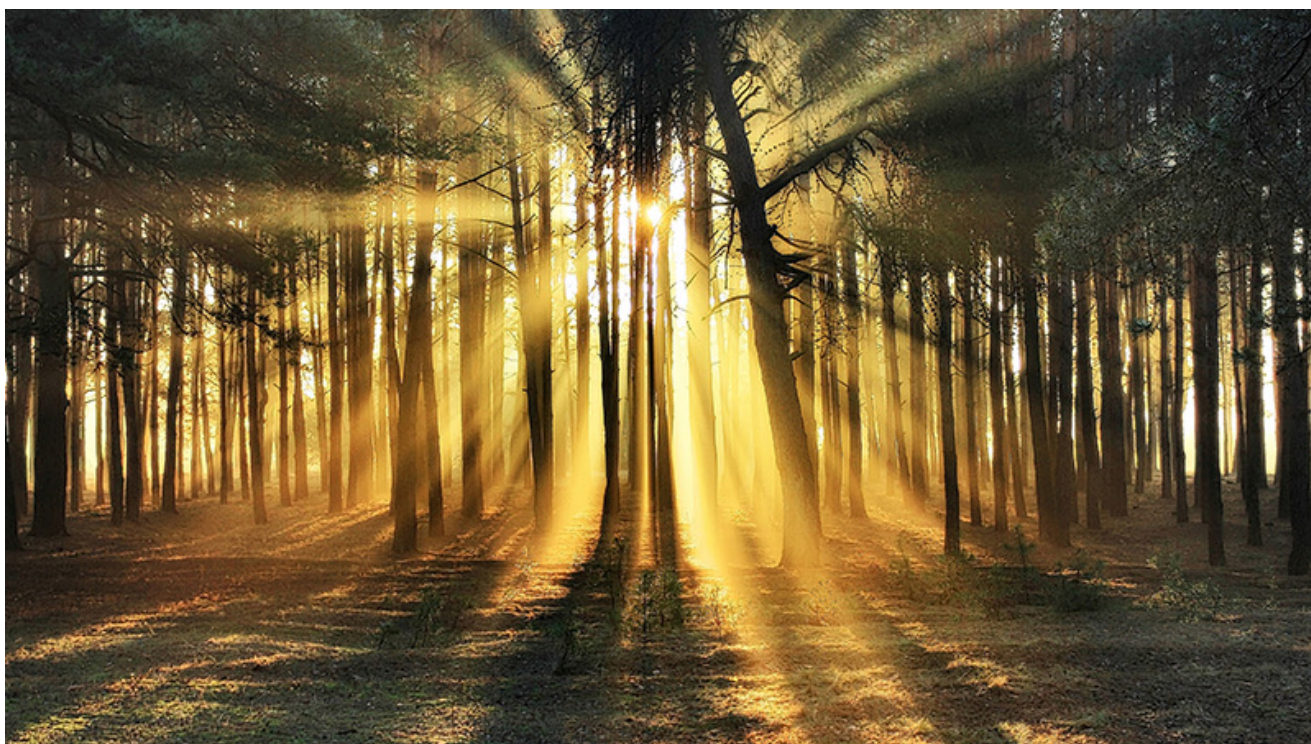
<https://youtu.be/we-n-Zmgl0>

"Morning Has Broken!"

Blue, # 469

Sing it with me, with Cat Stevens!

Live into it with me, with those first Disciples!



And, then, say this — out loud (the neighbors aren't listening) — with me:

**"This is the Day which the Lord has made,
Let's Rejoice and Be Glad in It!"**

Worship... has just begun!

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
and Our Worship from Home "Kit"**

**It's the Day of Pentecost
Sunday, May 31, 2020**



Gather for Worship

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"
From "Our Father's World," our choir's CD, track 3, with Robin Bernhard, soloist;
in an almost ancient, universal, chant-like haunting inviting style:

<http://www.crestholme.pc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03-Jesus-Thou-Joy-of-Loving-Hearts.mp3>

GOD IS CALLING US TO WORSHIP I Corinthians 12 "The Message"
AND GIFTING US TO DO GOD'S WORK...

"God's various gifts are handed out everywhere;
but they all originate in God's Spirit.
God's various ministries are carried out everywhere;
but they all originate in God's Spirit.
God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere;
but God himself is behind it all.
Each person is given something to do that shows who God is:
Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.
All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit,
and to all kinds of people!
The variety is wonderful:
wise counsel
clear understanding
simple trust
healing the sick
... could I add:
teaching elementary school
cooking for the next Crestholme pot luck
listening... to a long-winded boring dear friend
sharing home-make cookies or children's art work
St. Paul continues:
miraculous acts
proclamation
distinguishing between spirits
tongues
interpretation of tongues.
All these gifts have a common origin,
but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God.
He decides who gets what, and when."

What's God's Spirit gifting you with today?
That's the promise / story of Pentecost, then and today!

OPENING SING-A-LONG HYMN "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Blue, # 487
<https://youtu.be/SaUxsgkKcAo>



OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION

“It sure would be nice, O God, if You simply did all the work and we just...
 gratefully received Your Gifts, Your Spirit, Your Tangible Promises.
 But, that’s never been the way you work or relate.
 Partnerships. Shared (“Covenant”) Responsibilities. That’s Your Style!
 Open our eyes... to recognize our “part of the bargain,”
 our responsible role in shaping Your New Creation.
 And, please, forgive us when... our eyes remain closed (or, avoidingly, downcast)
 our imaginations remain focused on yesterday
 and our curiosity and courage are... on Sabbatical.
 Startle us out of our comfortable complacency... with Your Grace.
 In the Name of the God Who
 still Creates and Calls
 still Loves and Leads
 still Comforts and Challenges.
 Amen, and Amen.”

GOD’S ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

II Corinthians 5. 17

One: Friends, trust the Good News of the Gospel:
 All: Anyone who is in Christ is becoming a new creation.
 One: The old life has gone, a new life is beginning.
 All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

Hear the Word of God

OUR SYMBOLIC “PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION” OR, “GET READY!”

Turn off your phone. Pour another cup of coffee.
 Take a deep breath... and, look out — It’s Pentecost! God’s on the Move!

THE PENTECOST STORY — Two Experiences

Maya Angelou’s “Touched by an Angel”
 ... what if it were entitled, “Touched by the Spirit’s Dove”?

<https://youtu.be/Oa8IeZeXUqo>

Acts 2. 1 — 13

Read it first, in your favorite usual translation.

Then, here: The Message —

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2&version=MSG>



TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN... AND THE CHILD IN EACH OF US...

In Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkbIZtqhyQ>

The Story: "The Holy Spirit Comes"

<https://youtu.be/KwJJJoSGw84>

THREE EXPERIENCES OF PENTECOST

Pentecost — Everything Changed

On the day of Pentecost, the apostles were changed, and their ministry changed. Jesus, before He ascended into heaven, told them to go wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. They would be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

They had no idea what that meant, but they waited expectantly for that day. Because of the Bible and the Book of Acts, today we think we know what that means. The Pentecostals say it means you speak in tongues as proof that God has bestowed His Spirit upon you. In the Old Testament, many times people prophesied when the Spirit of the Lord came upon them. Here is one suggestion from our own Presbyterian organization. **"How does such an experience come to each of us?** In a blinding, overwhelming, mystical sense of being caught up into oneness with God? Not in the Reformed tradition. God's love does not obliterate our own free struggle. God honors too much "the dignity, truth and actuality which belong to the individual Christian subject as such" (Barth)." Not in the reformed tradition, sounds too much like God couldn't do that!

If I might put in my 2 cents, I think those views put God in a box. It is comforting to think that God will only work in my life the way I think He should or can. That lets me keep God predictable with no surprises. The disciples had no preconceived ideas about what Jesus meant. No one had been baptized in the Spirit because Jesus had not yet been glorified (John 7:39). Suddenly they are speaking in tongues and those around them are saying they are drunk. (How undignified.) But rather than being embarrassed, Peter stands up and expounds on what is going on. I suspect the wisdom and knowledge that he used that day to speak to those who were witnessing this event surprised even himself. That was the work of the Holy Spirit in his life. A work that brought wisdom, knowledge and understanding of what God was doing at that moment. Peter knew what God's will was for that moment in that place.

That is what the Spirit of the Lord is about. He helps us to see and understand what God's will is in our lives. Several times in Scripture the Word says "I will show you things you did not know." The spirit of man cannot know the mind of God, but the Spirit of God knows His mind and shares His knowledge with us.

How can we keep from putting God in a box? Luke says to ask God for the Spirit. "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13) Let's ask God for the Holy Spirit as Luke says. Don't ask thinking you know what will happen but ask with no preconceived ideas. Wait expectantly for the Spirit to reveal Himself to you.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Larry

God's Promise Fulfilled

You've heard the one about the baby fish asking the momma fish, "Momma, what is water?" Without realizing it, they were swimming in it already. You could say they were schooled. Smile.

The Israelites in the OT called the bread they ate in their wilderness experience. "Manna," meaning "What is it?"

On the day of Pentecost, in the second chapter of Acts, it was the same thing. The bewildered crowd asked, "What is this?" Peter boldly explained to the onlookers they were witnessing the fulfillment of a promise. God's promise. A promise prophesied by the prophet Joel. A sovereign act of God. A pouring out of His Spirit upon all flesh. A medium, if you please.

The baby fish live in water. The baby birds live in the air. And the babies of God live in His Holy Spirit. Therefore, drink deeply. Swim, fly, and dive freely. Explore and bear witness to the gift. The promise. The Spirit of God. How? By speaking to the mighty works of God.

And what are these mighty works of God? God's reconciliation of the cosmos unto himself. "Jesus Christ has died. Jesus Christ is risen. Jesus Christ will come again." People of God, we are forgiven! We have been made one with God in Christ Jesus. A promise made. A promise kept. A promised gift fulfilled. Amen.

Peace and Grace,
Carlos



**“WHAT IF PENTECOST WAS MUCH... SMALLER?
 WHAT IF PENTECOST WAS MUCH... BIGGER?”**

<https://youtu.be/2hCTrewSqtU>

Amen!

Tom

That Dramatic Fiery Red Image:
"Pentecost Fire" by Jan Richardson

Respond in Love and Service

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"We are not alone; we live in God's world.
 We believe in God – Who has created and is creating;
 Who has come in Jesus, to reconcile and make new.
 We trust God – Who calls us to be the Church;
 To love and serve others;
 To seek justice and resist evil;
 To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 Our judge and our hope.
 In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.
 We are not alone.
 Thanks be to God."

OUR RESPONSE IN A HYMN. "There's a Spirit in the Air" Blue, #433
<https://youtu.be/Uv3QzQt4zsc>

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We usually emphasize things we are doing, gifts we are giving...
 What if we emphasized the things we were not doing, this "stay at home" season?
 And, saw that as an occasion of emptying... in order to — eventually — be filled anew!
<https://youtu.be/lyOe56nkZCs>

"In Jesus' name, Live your Gifts! In Jesus' name, Give your Gifts!"

Please, mail your gifts, tithes, offerings and pledges to the church:
 Crestholme Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 23919. SA TX 78223-0901



Today is the Day of Pentecost!
 Join us in contributing to the
 Pentecost Special Offering!
 An investment in our Youth!
 For all your gifts, Wow, Thank You!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — HOW DOES GOD SAY, "WOW, THANK YOU!" ?



OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AND SERVE, OR, TO PAUSE AND WAIT...

- Bake a favorite loaf. Give it to a Neighbor.
- Surprise an “essential worker” with a smiling compliment.
- Call someone “out of the blue”! Banish the “blues”!
- Give up a favorite dessert. Give the equivalent to The Food Pantry.

THE PEOPLES’ PRAYERS

If prayer is a Holy Dialogue — a two-way conversation — what if the starting point and promise of God’s prayer to you... went something like this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gpoJNv5dlQ>

As I was writing / praying this,
the “Breaking News” shouted that we were over the 100,000 deaths mark!
Shed a tear. 100,000 of them. Light a candle. 100,000 of them!

What would be your prayer, to God? Pray it. Pray them. Live them.
And then add: **“Lord, In Your Mercy... Hear Our Prayer!”**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

In honor of Pentecost’s many languages, I’ll also pray the Lord’s Prayer in Czech.
What languages will you pray it in?

CLOSING HYMN “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place” Blue, # 398
... there is, you know! Whether it’s our Sanctuary or Your Kitchen!

<https://youtu.be/-9EGwkimNeQ>

BENEDICTION

“Go out into the world in peace
Have courage
Hold on to what is good
Return no one evil for evil
Strengthen the fainthearted
Support the weak
Help the suffering
Honor all men and women,
Little boys and little girls
Love and serve each other
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.”

POSTLUDE

Did the first Pentecost begin... quietly, with just a hint of what was to come?
And only gradually build to a mighty crescendo...
from breeze to mighty wind, from flicker to towering flames?
A little like this favorite piece:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3UW218_zPo&feature=youtu.be

Did you notice the trombonist who put his camera on his slide?

The End of Worship The Beginning of Service

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It's also still Easter's Promise!
Bloom!

Thank you...

for being a part of the Crestholme's
compassionate community!
for staying home and taking care!
for all your prayers, your gifts,
all your sharing and serving!

If you've made it this far, I have a favor / request:

When we gather for worship together, in the sanctuary,
your feedback is both pretty direct and very helpful.
But with this "at home" style... well.... it's neither that easy or clear.

I want your feedback, please:

- do you wait till 11 am on Sunday... and then "worship" all at once?
- do you open it the minute you get it and... ___ ... begin?
- do you spread the pieces out over several hours or days?
- what "works"? What doesn't? What helps? What hinders... your worship?

What can we do to connect more effectively,
offer worship more engagingly,
build community more creatively?

Please — your feedback, suggestions, ideas and requests:
Tom tjheger@flash.net. 210 237 8182

Thanks!
Amen!

