The Day of Pentecost

May 31, 2020

We welcome you to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, a house of prayer for all people.

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker, Rector
The Reverend Courtney Davis-Shoemaker, Assistant Priest
The Reverend Greg Smith, Deacon
Wayne Helmly, Organist & Choirmaster
PRELUDE: “LET THE BRIGHT SERAPHIM”

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)
Margaret Kelly Cook, soprano
Antonio Marti, trumpet

INTROIT: “IF YE LOVE ME”

If ye love me
Keep my commandments
And I will pray the father
And he shall give you another comforter
That he may bide with you forever
E’en the spirit of truth

GREETING AND THE PEACE

The words “Peace be with you” will be shared by parishioners in different languages to symbolize the gift of the Holy Spirit.

OPENING HYMN 225

Hail thee, festival day!
blest day that art hallowed for ever,
day when the Holy Ghost
shone in the world with God’s grace.

Lo, in the likeness of fire, on those who await his appearing,
he whom the Lord foretold suddenly, swiftly, descends:
Refrain

Forth from the Father he comes with sevenfold mystical offering,
pouring on all human so infinite riches of God:
Refrain

Hark! for in myriad tongues Christ’s own, his chosen apostles,
preach to the ends of the earth Christ and his wonderful works:
Refrain

Praise to the Spirit of Life, all praise to the fount of our being,
light that dost lighten all, life that in all dost abide:
Refrain

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Officiant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Officiant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
The following is sung

1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. 2. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 3. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; 5. you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 6. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, 7. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

1When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” 14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. 21Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.
PSALM 104:25-35,37

Antiphon:

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Psalm Tone:

Antiphon

25 O lord how manifold [are] your works!*  
In wisdom you have made them all; ... the earth is [full of] your creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea, ...  
with its living things too [many] to number,* 
creatures both [small] and great.

27 There move the ships, ... and there is [that] Leviathan,*  
which you have [made for] the sport of it.

Antiphon

28 All of them [look] to you*  
to give them their [food in] due season.

29 You give it to [them:] ... they gather it;*  
you open your hand, ... and they are [filled with] good things

30 You hide your face and [they are] terrified;*  
you take away their breath, ... and they die and re-[turn to] their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit and [they are] created;*  
and so you renew the [face of] the earth.

Antiphon

32 May the glory of the lord en-[dure] forever,*  
may the lord rejoice in [all] his works.

33 He looks at the [earth and] it trembles;*  
he touches the mountains [and] they smoke.

34 I will sing to the lord as [long as] I live;*  
I will praise my God while I [have] my being.

35 May these [words of] mine please him;*  
I will re-[joice in] the Lord.

37 Bless the [lord O] my soul.*  
Hallelujah! ... [Hal]-lelujah!

Antiphon
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

3bNo one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. 4Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. 12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

19When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Officiant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
People I do.

Officiant Do you believe in God the Father?
People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
        He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
        and born of the Virgin Mary.
        He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
        was crucified, died, and was buried.
        He descended to the dead.
        On the third day he rose again.
        He ascended into heaven
        and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
        He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Officiant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
        the holy catholic Church,
        the communion of saints,
        the forgiveness of sins,
        the resurrection of the body,
        and the life everlasting.

Officiant: Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People: I will, with God’s help.

Officiant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People: I will, with God’s help.

Officiant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People: I will, with God’s help.

Officiant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People: I will, with God’s help.

Officiant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People: I will, with God’s help.

The Officiant then says:

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lector: After each petition, let us pray together saying: “Come Holy Spirit, come.”

Loving God, fill us with the new wine of the Holy Spirit, so that we may boldly speak truth and act as your servants. Bless your church and all who worship you so they may be your servants on this earth spreading your truth. Let us pray together saying:

Come Holy Spirit, Come.
Bless these United States and all our leaders in the face of the coronavirus and all other challenges. May they put pettiness aside, make wise decisions on our behalf and lead all of us safely into a sustainable future. Let us pray together saying:

**Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

Bless this fragile earth, our island home and all inhabitants. May they be spared from war, natural disaster and disease so they may care for one another as well as the land, sea and air for future generations. Let us pray together saying:

**Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

Bless all our neighbors in Charleston. We give you thanks for living in this beautiful place. May we care for it well and be gracious hosts to this summer’s visitors, including those without homes. Let us pray together saying:

**Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. We give thanks, Holy Spirit, for the comfort you provide to all those suffering from sickness, financial stress, underemployment or any kind of trouble. When we or they do not know how to pray as we ought, may the Holy Spirit intercede with sighs too deep for words. Let us pray together saying:

**Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

Bless us as we mourn our departed loved ones taking comfort in knowing you welcome their souls. Let us pray together saying:

**Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

We give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit filling our hearts. May we speak and act your truth bringing eternal life to this world through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

“I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU COMFORTLESS”

William Byrd (c. 1539-1623)

I will not leave you comfortless, Alleluia
I go, and I will come to you, Alleluia.
And your heart shall be joyful, Alleluia.

THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*The Officiant leads the People in reciting Psalm 63.*

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name. My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches. For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

*People and Officiant, led by St. Stephen’s Children and Youth*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**
The Officiant says

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

In union, O Lord, with faithful eucharistic people throughout the world, we offer you our thanks and praise. We present to you our souls and bodies, earnestly desiring that we may always be united with you. You promise, O Christ, to be present with us in the sacrament of your body and blood, so with confidence we claim your presence among us during this eucharistic fast. Come into our hearts and unite us with you and one another. May your healing grace abound. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you and you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the following:

May Almighty God, who enlightened the minds of the disciples by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit, make you rich with his blessing, that you may abound more and more in that Spirit for ever. Amen.

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit as a flame of fire that rested upon the heads of the disciples, burn out all evil from your hearts, and make them shine with the pure light of his presence. Amen.

May God, who by the Holy Spirit caused those of many tongues to proclaim Jesus as Lord, strengthen your faith and send you out to bear witness to him in word and deed. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.
CLOSING HYMN 516

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illumining.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ.

People    Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

POSTLUDE: “EV’RY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT” AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

arr. William Dawson (1899-1990)

Adapted from the Rite for Spiritual Communion by the Order of Julian of Norwich.

The worship is over. Now the service begins.