



St Marylebone
Parish Church

Whit-Sunday 2020, 8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Readings:

The Acts of the Apostles 2.1 & The Holy Gospel according to St John 14.15

Today is the great feast of Pentecost.

50 days since Resurrection of the Lord. 10 since His Ascension.

The Spirit is given to the infant Church.

The same Spirit that breathed the universe into life.

The same Spirit that ‘spake through the Prophets’.

The same Spirit who revealed Christ’s divinity at His Baptism.

The same Spirit that moment by moment sustains the universe in being.

The same Spirit that is active in your life now.

‘Who? me?’ you say. Yup.

It was the Holy Spirit who through water made you a child of God at your baptism and confirmed you in the Faith through one of His bishops.

It was the Holy Spirit who blessed and sealed the covenant of your marriage, and has done every day since.

Every time you have ever prayed, it is the Holy Spirit’s work within you that you are joining in with.

Every time you have loved, forgiven, hoped, exercised wisdom, it is God’s Holy Spirit in you, bringing you to life in these ways.

And, of course, every tiny part of you exists because the Spirit is sustaining it in life, as He does with everything that ever was and is.

This is how Christians see the world. GM Hopkins writes: ‘The world is charged with the grandeur of God... Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings’.

And yet, today the world *seems* charged with infection, anxiety and difficulty.

I am not drenched in the Spirit, I am 'drunk' on Zoom. My eyes have shrivelled up and my attention span collapsed. Emails and 'phone calls fill my view, so I have no energy left to marvel at the Holy Spirit's cosmic artwork. Never mind glory - I'm too busy yo-yo-ing between un-fulfilment, contentment and completely losing the plot.

Perhaps some of this strikes a chord with you?

But whatever things look like from where you are, today's feast invites us *deeper*.

Last Sunday I said that the Holy Spirit was like the conductor of an orchestra. Today we're going to leap from Mahler to Marconi.

Picture a big old radio with a fat bakelite dial that has to be turned. (None of your DAB wizardry here!)

Our calling is to tune the dial of our life (that is to say, our heart, our will, and all that makes up who we are) to be tuned in to the life of the Holy Spirit.

It can be tricky at first; it takes patience, and love. But to literally attune our will, our heart, our lives, until they are completely *one* with the frequency of the Holy Spirit of God: in that union (and only there) is true peace and love and joy and *life* to be found.

Like anything in life, the more you do it, the more you do it. We just have to begin. And, yes, it takes discipline and application at first. Simply keeping it at the forefront of our mind takes some getting used to. But eventually we begin to see everything for what it is - a work of the Spirit. And everything we think, say and do becomes a part of the Spirit's life. Tuned in to His frequency.

It's not easy. There are lots of steps backward as well as forward, but we aren't alone.

The Spirit will use our flesh and blood, our thoughts and prayers. Our good old friends habit and neuroplasticity will bear their fruits if we let them. The Spirit isn't confined to ideas or thoughts. It is in the reality of our flesh and blood, our relationships and time, our money and energy, our bodies and wills.

The same Spirit who calls the universe into being has been your friend and lover every moment of your existence. The same Spirit is calling you now to see Him for who He is, and tune yourself into His life. **If we do that then the life of heaven is breaking through on earth and we will begin to *truly live*.**