

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

12 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Sermon: Kerygma

Loving Creator shine as a light before me that you may be seen and not I. Give me words that I may speak give us ears that we may hear and through your Holy Spirit help us understand.

Amen.

Here it is!

Pentecost has come!

Today is the day we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit.

This is the day we celebrate our baptism into the Holy Spirit.

Today is the day we celebrate with our confirmation class, and call upon the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

It has been a long journey to get here.

During the past few weeks I have spoken about the things that make a church a church, the things that make a Christian a Christian.

We are a community of people who, through our covenantal promises become one. We become connected like family. This church is based upon promises we make when we join in covenant, promises that bind us together.

We come together to learn.

On a TV show I saw recently, a mom was telling her husband they needed to go to church. He said, "We can go to church any time, but this game is only on today." She said, "because our kids don't have any idea what church is about." The mom says to her son, "who is Jesus?"

The young lad looks at her and says, "I know who Jesus is, he's the guy who helps Santa Claus at Christmas."

Mom looks at dad, and dad says, "I'll get the car."

We may hope that we will learn all we need to know about God by osmosis, but that is not likely. We need to work at that our whole lives. We are always learning what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Service is also part of being a church and a Christian. We need to reach out to others in need. When you did it to the least of these my sisters and brothers, you did it also to me.

We need to worship and pray. That is part of everyday life. Pray without ceasing. But that does not mean that praying alone is enough, because to be a Christian we must come together.

Habitat builds, making breakfast, washing dishes at a church supper, helping a stranger find their way, serving on a committee, working at VBS or going on a trip with the NOMANDs of Hope, these are all ways to serve.

We serve to help others, but it is also a way to be transformed.

I saw this perhaps most clearly when the Nomads led worship and young people got up to tell how they were changed by the experience of serving others.

Service changes the world and it changes us.

Jesus said where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there also. That seems to imply that if we want Jesus to be part of the picture we must come together to worship and pray in community, using all that we have learned.

We gather for a worship service. Ever wonder why we use that word, service, to describe worship? This is work that God requires of us. Some traditions call regular worship the Work of God. Worship is something we do for God.

It is not predominantly something we do to feel better ourselves, although we usually feel better after worshiping, it is not something we do to have a few minutes rest after a long and hectic week, although that often happens.

Worship is the work we do for God.

It is one way that we proclaim our God as the head, the cornerstone of existence.

We worship because God is worthy of our honor and our praise.

So, here we are today, on Pentecost at proclamation. The Greek word for today is Kyregma. Unlike the others, there is no analogous word in English to explain it. It simply means preaching or proclamation.

This is one that is often uncomfortable for Christians today. What does it mean to proclaim the Christian message?

We certainly have the story of Pentecost from Acts,

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

They went outside and began to tell the story of Jesus in various languages. They were moved by the Holy Spirit to share the story. This is what we think of as preaching. Someone gets up and tells the story of Jesus in some compelling way.

Every Sunday I hope that I will find the words to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in some way that will connect with others.

This may lead some people to believe that since I am the preacher for this church I am the only one charged with proclaiming the Good News, and that standing in the pulpit is where that happens.

There are lots of quotes attributed to St Francis, one of my favorites is, “preach the Gospel always, use words when necessary.”

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ is not just for preachers in the pulpits of churches, but for all who share the baptism of Jesus.

One of the baptismal questions is: Do you promise, by the grace given to you, to be Christ’s disciple, to follow the way of our savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to bear witness to the work and word of Jesus as best you are able?

When you stop to help a stranded motorist, you bear witness to the love of Christ. When you find a way to bring people together, you proclaim the gospel of reconciliation.

When we bring food to Springfield for Loaves and Fishes, we may not speak of Jesus, but we share the love of Christ with others, that is proclaiming the kingdom of God where all are fed.

I don't know where this quote came from, You are the only Bible some people will ever read.

They will know we are Christians by our love.

This is the day when we remember the moment that the Holy Spirit came with power to rest upon the Christian community. The story of how the Apostles had the Spirit descend upon them is quite dramatic.

This is the day when a group of young people will confirm their baptismal vows.

You confirmands are entering a new chapter in your life of faith. You will be making your own proclamation, and you will take on the life and ministry of Jesus. You will be asked to be part of a community of faith, to continue learning how to live as Jesus calls you to live, to serve others in love, to pray and worship, and you are asked to proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

You may never get up and preach in church, you may never be called upon to perform miracles in Jesus name, but you are called to live in a way that will share the love of Jesus in the world.

Love is our proclamation,
Love that binds us together,
Love that teaches us how to live,
Love that moves us to help others,
Love that trusts in prayer,
Love that we share with the world.

Love is our proclamation,
Love that knows no bounds.

We gather here in this place of worship to make our proclamation.

May God bless us and all we do in Jesus' name.
AMEN.