

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
PENTECOST 3
JUNE 9, 2024
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we move forward led by the light of Pentecost fire, we acknowledge that this sacred space and the places where we keep the home fires burning lie on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **Together, let us walk from darkness into light and from indifference into reconciliation.**

Father Michael: God calls to each of us, "You are my beloved, created in love for love.

Peopole: **My spirit answers, "Here I am Lord, speak to me anew."**

Fr. Michael: God breathes on us the Spirit, knitting many members into one body, the Body of Christ. People: Together we answer, "Here we are Lord, come Holy Spirit." Here we are Lord; shine the light of your love upon us; kindle your Spirit within us; work your redeeming will among us so that all the world might be one through the power of your love. Amen

Fr. Michael: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Called by God, united in Christ and led by the Spirit we pray,

People: **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

Fr. Michael: Encouraged by all the saints in heaven and on earth, we declare,

People: **Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 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; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen**

Reader: A reading from the first book of Samuel (1Samuel 8:4-20 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them." So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and

appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots. and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day." But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles." Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship." So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the Lord, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: God has yet more vision for the people. Who will work for God to extend the Lord's kingdom in our hurting world?

People: **Here we are Lord, empower us to do your work. Here we are Lord; shine the light of your love upon us; kindle your Spirit within us; work your redeeming will among us, so that all the world might be one through the power of your love. Amen**

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness;

All: **The Lord will make good his purpose for me.**

Reader: For you have glorified your name and your word above all things. When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

All: **The Lord will make good his purpose for me.**

Reader: All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

All: **The Lord will make good his purpose for me.**

Reader: Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me. The Lord will make good his purpose for me; O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

All: **The Lord will make good his purpose for me.**

Reader: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1)

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: God calls the small and helps them to do great things. God calls the weak and reveals their hidden gifts. God calls the rejected and opens their eyes to their worth.

People: **Here we are Lord, humble and waiting. Shine light of your love upon us; kindle your Spirit within us; work your redeeming will in us so that all the world might be one through the power of your love.**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Mark (3:20-35)

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Fr. Michael: The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain Jesus, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" - for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Fr. Michael: Here we are Lord, your family gathered under your Spirit. We affirm the foundation of our faith as we say,

People: **We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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. 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. Amen.**

Reader: God, we are not wholly convinced that darkness is a thing of the past. Many in our world feel surrounded by darkness and gloom. Pressures crowd in on us and get us down. The causes are many and varied: bereavement, illness, worries about family and work, lack of work or fair wages worthy of our hire, drugs, drink, boredom, doubt, weariness, a sense of futility in life. Then, there are world issues: war, poverty, climate change, political unrest and corruption, disease, unfair trade practices that enslave through economic disparity between nations and

so on. It doesn't help that we feel that as Christians we could and should be doing more at the global level. Gracious and loving God, we rejoice that you are with us in our troubles and that you know us and in spite of that continue to love us.

People: **Give us your light in our present darkness, Lord.**

Reader: We pray for our dark and dreary world, a world in need – in need not just for a technical fix, but in need of grace, love, forgiveness, reconciliation, new life, hope, peace and fellowship, a world in need of renewal at all levels. We pray for all agencies dedicated to raising people up rather than tearing people down.

People: **Give us your light in our present darkness, Lord.**

Reader: We ask that you would come alongside us and walk with us as we pray for our friends and families. We pray for our diocesan family: Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as our Community Ministries: Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, Refugee Ministry and Belong Ottawa: Centre 454; St Luke's Table; The Well. We pray for St. Thomas the Apostle, Stittsville and The Reverend Lee Lambert. We pray for our precious family here at Holy Trinity: Kelly, Liesa, Louise, Randy, Marjorie, Beth, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Jeanette, Cheryl, and Zachariah and those known to you alone that you would show Jesus the Light of the World, the One who came to relieve us of sin and give us light and hope and peace – a peace which the world cannot give and that passes all understanding, not as a temporary respite from trouble but the strength to overcome it and to ultimately receive life eternal.

People: **Give us your light in our present darkness, Lord.**

Reader: We don't wave a magic wand and everything gets sorted out immediately. You make us exercise our faith and respond to your call to preach and live the Gospel, to look to you for the strength we will need to do all this. Help us to share the Good News in word and in action, that same good news those fisherfolk were called to declare that there is a Saviour, a Merciful King who loves us and cares for us. We have been set free. Enable us to use our freedom to be Kingdom-livers. In the light of this, help us to celebrate and shout aloud, for even in our times of darkness, fear and pain we know that you are walking with us. The Lord is our light and our salvation. Hear us Lord, in Jesus' name. God of opportunity, you want to be in relationship with us, your creatures. You desire justice and peace. You never force yourself upon us, but invite us to join with you in co-creating a more just and peaceful world. Help us to hear your invitations, be they whispered or loud, and encourage us to respond to them with enthusiasm, joy and energy. We pray all this in the name of your Son, our Redeemer Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: How many times, Lord, do we live with and in unbelief? Our doubts and fears surround us and we find it hard to know what is true, what is real.

People: **Help us, Gracious Saviour, to know what is the right way to live according to your Word. Forgive us for the ways in which we live according to what is right in our own eyes and which will satisfy all our needs. Help us to live beyond knowing Jesus as a good teacher, a righteous and holy person. Forgive us when we fail to understand and accept that Jesus is Messiah and Lord of life. Help us Guiding Spirit to open our hearts to be led and teach us your Kingdom – ways. Forgive us when we seek to please only ourselves or those we want to impress. Help us, Holy One, to turn our hearts to offer our prayers to you and to accept the forgiveness you offer to all who come to you and call upon your name.**

Fr. Michael: God said to Sarah and Abraham, "No longer will your faces grow pale. All people will keep my name holy and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. When they do this, they shall be given understanding and those who are faithful will know that forgiveness is ours in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: And the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, receive all that we offer you this new day. Give us wisdom and understanding and help us to do your will: in Jesus' holy name we pray.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr., Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we say,

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Michael: We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected. Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

Fr. Michael: "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Gifted as children of God, we share the gift which Jesus gave to his Church,

People: **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Michael: "I am the bread of life which has come down from heaven", says the Lord.

People: **Give us this bread forever.**

Fr. Michael: "I am the Vine; you are the branches."

People: **May we dwell in him as he lives in us.**

Fr. Michael: O God, you have nourished us in the mysteries of the body and blood of Christ. Nourish us by this feast so that we may live the risen life and serve you faithfully in this world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Let us continue to gather, old and young to dream God's dream, receive God's power and do God's work.

People: **Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us; kindle your Spirit within us; work your redeeming will upon us so that all the world might be one through the power of your love. Alleluia and Alleluia!**

(All responsorial prayers are written by David Inglis and posted on the Henrietta United Church of Christ website)

All: Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Michael: The blessing of God, the eternal good will of God, the Shalom of God, the wildness and warmth of God be among us and between us and within us now and always in the name of the Father, the Son and the Blessed Spirit.

All: **Amen**

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