

Pentecost Sunday

Year A: St. George's Episcopal Church

I invite you to join me this morning in a few minutes of silence as we make space for the Holy Spirit to come. Come into our hearts, our minds, our bodies. Come afresh Holy Spirit into our families, homes, institutions, cities and nations as we mourn the loss of 100,000 live, as we mourn the unjust death of George Floyd and so many others. Our hearts are aching with grief, Fear and so many emotions. Come among us as you did your disciples – Lord Jesus, show us your hands and your side. Show us the wounds you still carry for the whole world. The wounds you took on for our sins – Lord we give you our wounds and the wounds of our broken world this day knowing you took them on that we might be healed and made whole.

Help us, good Lord, to have the courage to not only name our wounds but to forgive those who've inflicted them, and stand in solidarity for justice with those who keep being wounded over and over. Help us to receive a fresh your Holy Spirit this day and your deep abiding peace – so that, we may then go out into the world and spread your peace, your compassion and your love.

We have been uniting our prayers with your disciples for the past 10 days from Ascension till today – Pentecost. We have been praying the Holy Spirit set our hearts on fire for you. We have been praying 5 people in our circles of influence who do not know of your love would experience your love for them through Jesus Christ. Surely those who demonstrated such hate towards their fellow humanity need this love and peace.

I pray you will give us courage to have difficult conversations in the days ahead, to examine and own the beliefs we have been taught that are not in line with the truth of your word but of the world. I pray we have the grace to then repent so that we might live into the fullness of your love and grace.

God we need you – we need you to show us how to lament for the many losses around us as the Psalmist did – always recalling your goodness and loving kindness in the midst of sharing their pain and anger and other hard emotions authentically.

Surely the first disciples lamented about all the changes in their circumstances, in the unknown future before them. Surely, they had questions and confusion as they waited for the promised Holy Spirit not knowing how the Spirit of Comfort would come or work. But they waited on you with bended knee. Give us courage to wait on you and then follow your Holy Spirit's leading. For only in you can we live in safety.

Thank you for keeping your promise and sending us the comforter and guide in the Holy Spirit. In the next few days, weeks, let us be intentional and take time to sit in silence and pray come Holy Spirit fill us and meet us in our places of greatest need. We love you and adore you now and always.