



The Rev. Charles R. Colwell, Interim

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE  
RESURRECTION

# RISE & SHINE

## The Gift of the Spirit

by Barbara Cawthorne Crafton



Serving God, Helping others, Living hope

The Jews had Pentecost before the Christians got hold of it. Many Christian feasts and customs are like that: we celebrate Christmas on the Roman feast of the sun's birthday, for instance, and many churches dedicated to the Virgin Mary are on the sites of more ancient temples to the Roman goddess Diana. We are the hermit crabs of the religious world, moving ourselves and all our belongings into other peoples' places and deciding to stay. Squatters: *Nice place. If I stay here long enough, it'll be my house.*

It was the Feast of Weeks, in Judaism: fifty days after Passover. And it was the day of offering to God the first fruits of the corn harvest, which probably means that the Hebrews, too, took on a more ancient fertility and harvest feast and made it their own. We have inherited and changed something they probably also borrowed and then altered to fit into their faith.

Christians look at Hindus and think them primitive because they have so many Gods, without realizing that they simply keep the files open on what we do, too: we appropriate the religious systems and images we find in the world and insert them into what we know of God. We find things and see how they fit. And after a while, they become Christian, part of the story of Jesus and faith in His saving works. Hindus don't have many gods: they have one God. But God has many manifestations in Hinduism, and each has a name and a colorful personality. People who pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit should be able to relate to this better than we do.

But we don't. Borrowers though we may be, we act as if we were the sole custodians of the truth, and we act as if we invented it. As if "inspired by God" meant "plopped down in my lap without any history anywhere else, ever" As if we had God on a leash, like a pet. As if we had invented everything we think about God, and had no help with it.

And we think, oddly, that if it's true that Christmas was the sun's birthday once, or that Pentecost is a Jewish feast, it detracts from our store of truth. As if other faiths can be true only if ours is found false. As if God is so simple He can only do one thing at a time. We have a hard time letting history show in our faith, letting one thing ease into another through time and through the interaction of people and cultures. We don't remember that God works in mysterious ways, and that cultural assimilation can be one of them.

The Feast, as we have it, is all about the joining of cultures, about the many languages God uses with the human family. Barriers of language and distance break down before the mighty power of the Spirit. We have Pentecost today as a feast of understanding, among people and nations, a foretaste of a world in which we know one another.

And we have it as a feast of power. Not power we have made, but power we have received. The Spirit overcomes our limits, goes where we cannot go on our own, and takes us along.

May we have a blessed Pentecostal Season as we discover God's love and power in our lives and in the world.

Blessings,

Fr. Charlie



## Sermon for Pentecost Sunday

*(excerpts by editor due to space constraints)*

May 31, 2020

**The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano  
Bishop of Long Island**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The disciples were locked away for fear of the world following the events of Good Friday and the days that followed. They were bewildered, scared and not knowing what to do next.

The risen Christ comes and stands in their midst and says, "Peace be with you!" And as we have heard from the Acts of the Apostles, having been encouraged by the gift of the Holy Spirit, they emerge preaching in various tongues and giving witness to the reality of the resurrection.

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. It may be an oversimplification, but accurately describes that movement of the Holy Spirit that released the disciples and empowered them to reveal the redemption of humanity found in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As we have lived through the past twelve weeks of quarantine and isolation for fear of the illnesses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, each of us, I am certain, have longed for a return to what we believed to be normal.

But we have discovered, haven't we, that our way of being, the craziness of our existence, the way in which we carried on in life was not normal at all.

We have learned some significant lessons about our place in life, the importance of the people around us each day that we often take for granted, the choices we make, the assumptions we carry, the evaluation of what is essential. We all now understand that what we imagined about the priorities of our common life might have been a little too self-serving and little too exclusionary to actually be called common life. It appears that social distancing and a bit of isolation has taught us each how to appreciate the gift and genuine need of each other in reality. We are relearning the holiness of the human family. We are having a Pentecost event as a people anew!

As members of the church, the people of God, we know well that the celebrations of the liturgical calendar are never, ever meant to be solely occasions to recall a past historical or biblical event. The Incarnational theology that forms our liturgical and sacramental life dictates that our celebrations encompass

the real time experience of the people of God.

Today, this celebration of Pentecost provides us the opportunity to be renewed by God's Holy Spirit, not in wishful thinking, not in a delusion of returning to some misconceived normalcy, but in holy expectation of God acting in our time to move the church into the moments of terror and fear so many of us are experiencing, and transforming this experience into a time of deep and abiding peace that God brings to us, breathes on us and creates in us to move out beyond our walled-in reality to a transformed movement of sharing Jesus' love and compassion with a hurting and confused world.

The Pentecost event as recorded in scripture did not change the world outside that locked room, it created the church to serve and help transform the world.

Out of our deep prayer, our liturgical and sacramental life, the church must—absolutely must-- serve the world, challenge the world and overcome the sin and selfish greed that infects the world as a means of further breathing the peace and wholeness that was the original intent of the creator and sealed for all humanity in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There have been many Pentecost events for which I give thanks this day as they find their place in this great solemnity of the church.

I pray this is true for you as well.

That this feast of Pentecost, this feast of the ministry of the church, may include all those moments and times in your life in which God has created rich, unexpected experiences of grace, transformation and maybe healing. I invite you to look for them in your own life, especially in the places where you are locked away in fear or complacency.

I invite you to embrace, and not merely endure, this moment in which we are all a part in the midst of this pandemic, and pray the Holy Spirit to breathe upon you, your family and loved ones, the people all around us—to renew the face of the earth and to recognize the face of God and the will of God in all things, common and holy.

Amen.





## YES/AND

"I colored it for you, Nana, and cut it out so you could have my hug."

The **it** is a life size little girl with arms outstretched. She currently sits on my couch where I can look up and see her as I read! She brings tears - of joy and sadness.



We are all apart from those we love, separated because we love each other and respect each other. It is a strange world: we isolate to protect; we deny the human need of touch to save.

Quarantine allows us to talk with ourselves, to focus inward as external distractions melt away. Like steel, our brittle emotions become tempered as we face the truths about ourselves and others. For many of us, the safety of our homes becomes comfort. We even come to like the relaxed, less pressured world.

**Hygge**, the Danish concept of warmth and contentment, originally meant "to give courage, comfort, and joy." Our word hug links to it. And that is what a hug does: it strengthens us, intimately links us to another, reminds us we are not apart, not alone.

A colleague once told me we need 18 hugs a day to feel good! But where do we get those hugs now? And, how do we hold the fear and loneliness at bay without them?

When the disciples felt that fear and loneliness, Jesus returned and offered proof that he was alive, proof that they were not alone. He transfigured to show them - and us - how wonderfully different life could and would be.

And, as Pentecost approaches, I turn to thoughts of the Trinity. God loves so much that that love pours out into everything. That love creates our physical world. That love begets Jesus incarnate - proof to us that love is human, physical, tangible. God and Jesus love the Spirit in the eternal dance of creating and redeeming. God **needs** to love us. Love demands community, a reciprocity of giving and receiving.

Through our prayers, especially the Psalms, we send our love - our hugs - back to our wonderful good God.

*I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to God, for I rejoice in the LORD. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!* Psalm 104: 33-35

**YES**, we are apart...and isolated...and maybe even fearful. That is our humanity, our need to be with our "family."

**AND**, our hugs - both real and virtual - encircle us in the Trinity's dance of temporal and eternal love. Our hugs comfort and strengthen us both physically and spiritually. Our hugs bring us joy. We Resurrection people will always hug each other well!

Blessings,

Mary Pat



## Birthdays

### JUNE

9 Diane Petraglia  
12 John Bernhardt  
24 Regina Huneke  
26 Ellen Schutt

### JULY

2 Sharron Friedlander  
16 Pat Calvert  
29 Patty Hayes  
30 Patty McMahon  
31 Dorothy Strafer

### AUGUST

6 Robert Petraglia  
15 Karen Callegari  
16 Donald Josling  
20 Ruth Hanshe

## Anniversaries

### JULY

19 Dottie & Stewie Lotten

## Heavenly Saints

### JUNE

2009 Norma Kalmbacher

### JULY

2006 Gladys O'Donnell  
2012 Irene Kaletsky  
2018 Mary Ann Rose

### AUGUST

2008 Edna Irwin  
2009 Joan Rodriguez  
2012 Doris McAree  
2014 Dominick Salvatore

## Parish Administrator:

Patricia Hayes



**Organist:** Ellen Schutt

## Rise & Shine Editor:

Jane Colgrove

## Vestry:

Jane Colgrove, Warden;  
Don Josling, Warden;  
Mary Pat Gannon, Treasurer;  
Sharron Friedlander, John Lasek,  
Marjory Mahoney, Paul Servinskas,  
Fritz Weinrich, Liz Weinrich.  
Clerk: Pat Calvert

**Vestry Meeting, Sunday, March 8, 2020 - 11:30am**

**MINUTES**

III. *Treasurer's Report: (Mary Pat)* After deleting non-recurring expenses and including conservative income, treasurer estimates ongoing operations for 10 months at current level. LIQUID ASSETS should be donated to chosen charity(s) should Resurrection be forced to disband.

**MOTION** made and passed unanimously.

V. *Senior Warden:*

B. **MOTION** made to retain last year's Audit Committee of Paul S, Fritz W and Liz. Passed unanimously.

VIII. *New Business:*

Endowment fund can be used to replace needed flooring in undercroft. Discussion.

**MOTION** made by treasurer for Donald to get estimate (s) for painting, flooring and waterproofing. Passed unanimously.

***Part B. Discussion with Mother Lindsay Lunnum, Diocesan Consultant.***

After a lively discussion, it was urged that the Diocese develop a plan to keep small churches like Resurrection, viable.

Mother Lindsay agreed to do the following:

- a) *Get clarity from the Bishop on pursuing a yoke with CSI.*
- b) *Talk with the Bishop about connecting with Trinity in Roslyn or St. Mary's in Carle Place.*
- c) *Talk with the Bishop about enhancing the duties of deacons.*



LOVING GOD      LIVING HOPE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE  
**RESURRECTION**  
147 Campbell Avenue  
Williston Park NY 11596

Office Hours: 9am-1pm, Mon, Wed, Thu

9am-12pm, Tue, Fri

Telephone: 516 746-5527

Email: resurrectionwp@gmail.com

Fax: 516 741-2949

Web: www.resurrectionwillistonpark.org

*Season After Pentecost*