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# DAYBREAKING NEWS

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## Pentecost Meditation | Message from the Bishop

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***When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like; the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

### ***Acts 2:1-4***

**S**unday May 31, in the Christian year, is Pentecost (50 days after Easter.) This is the day we Christians celebrate when those first disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit and we recognize it as the birthday of the church. Think about it, how defeated those first disciples had to feel after they had given up everything jobs, homes etc. to follow Jesus. They so believed in him and then saw him crucified; how devastating and confusing. He was resurrected, but then he left their midst by ascension. How confused, disbelieving and deserted they must have felt. Easter is completed at Pentecost. Jesus had instructed those followers to return to their homes and wait for the gift that the Father had promised. The gift was the Holy Spirit.

Does this sound familiar? How similar we are in the church today to those bewildered disciples in Jerusalem. Sensing defeat, lack of direction, confusion and almost desertion by Christ. Don't you see that Luke's message is for us and all Christians of the world of today. The gift of Pentecost is God's continuing action ever at work. It is the Spirit who gives us confidence, who teaches us all things and brings into our living experience all that Jesus has said to us. The church becomes both the witness and bearer of God's Spirit. A universal witness, to extend the hope, the love, justice and forgiveness to everyone as it has been extended to us.

Don't you see? The gift of the Holy Spirit has been forever here, still is, here for the taking. Always!

Come open yourself and receive the power and the joy of the Spirit. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, Pentecost, break out your red outfit put it on proudly and shout "I have the Spirit!!" And let's go to work showing the world by giving hope, love, mercy, forgiveness and justice.

In the Spirit, Tom

### *Prayer Requests*

Remembrances for last Monday's Memorial Day. For all those who have lost their lives in support of our shared life together and the families who paid the price with the loss of loved ones.

If you have prayer requests or other needs, please let the church know. You can call the church office or let your prayer chain contact know.

### *Giving*

Our offering plate is going to be lonely without Sunday Services, but never fear, you can still send your tithes and offerings to the Aldersgate church office:

3530 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85018-5609

(602) 956-3710

## Aldersgate Stories

This week's article is from another one of our very special members, Betty Brown, who serves as our volunteer for the altar guild and provides our communion sacrament supplies, assists with special holiday flowers, plus she is on the prayer chain Team 2, and also serves in additional ways including helping with special church banquets or luncheons.

"John and I have been attending Aldersgate for over 60 plus years. In 1950, Reverend Strivings called on my family and said he was building a new church. We held meetings at Creighton School until a barracks building was brought on site. Then the now Striving hall was built holding the kitchen, office, conference room and sanctuary. After we were married, we became more involved with church. John was has been head of the trustees, president of council, has chaired the finance committee, and served as head of building committee. We both have been in the bell choir. Betty and her mother, Fannie Witt, took over the altar flowers and communion from Winnie Metzger in the middle 1990's. When Fannie Witt died in 1998, Betty took over her altar duties.

We are staying in being safe and praying for a cure soon to this pandemic.

Thank you, Betty"



May 22, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

This afternoon, words spoken from the White House mandated that churches open this weekend for worship. Houses of worship were deemed "essential," and governors of the states were told to allow churches and places of worship to open this weekend.

I contend that our churches have always been open. Our buildings may be closed but the laity and the clergy of the Desert Southwest Conference have worked diligently to ensure that ministry in the name of Jesus Christ continues. Worship in new ways has blossomed; lives are being touched, and our mandate to spread the good news has never been more crucial. The Church is alive!

The day will come when we will be safe to resume in-person worship and gatherings. We hope and pray for that day to come. But we are not yet ready to open our churches. This week, you received information outlining the steps we need to take to get ready for resuming on-site ministry. I ask you to begin the work of preparation so that when it is clear that we are safe to return to our churches, we will have done the necessary preparations to do so safely. You can revisit the latest [update](#) that contains the [resource](#) that you will need.

In the meantime, I affirm what we already know in our hearts and have experienced in these days of separation from one another. The church is the body of Christ! And "in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13). Sometimes, the different parts of the body may not be able to connect in person. That is the case of the body of Christ today. But let us remember that even if we are not presently able to be physically connected with one another, the Spirit of God connects us spiritually with one another in the name of Jesus, our Rock and Redeemer.

With patient trust in God, who is always with us, let us hold one another and our communities in prayer as we continue to be the body of Christ united in hope!

In Christ, Bishop Bob

Rev. Tom Kiracofe  
Pastor

Martha Stowe  
Administrator

