

Pentecost by John Birch

When was the last time
that we heard the wind of your Spirit
roar through this place?
When was the last time
your fire lit up this room?
When was the last time
we took you at your word
and met together in expectation
of your Spirit filling this place,
and these lives with your Glory and Power?
Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost.

Do we believe that this
was a once in eternity experience,
never to be repeated?

That the Holy Spirit was poured out
on your followers for a single purpose,
and ended His work at that instant?

If so, then maybe that is why the Church
seems so powerless in this age,
helpless when faced with the needs
both spiritual and physical,
that we see in the world.

Lord, as we meet together,
and celebrate once again
the memory of that first Pentecost,
may it be for us as it was then
a moment of empowerment,

an awareness of your Glory in this dark world,
a life-changing experience.



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Sunday 31st May 2020

This Week's Service

9am and 11am Service

Pentecost Sunday

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2 1:4



Sermon

Being filled with Holy Spirit

Pastor Tai

Message from Pastor Tai

Being filled with the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. Luke 24:44-53

We can only live out our life by the power of God's Spirit. The ironic association between being intoxicated and being filled with the Spirit can be seen in the Pentecost story of Acts 2, where the bystanders think that the believers are drunk. However, in Ephesians 5:18, the thought may not be so much about being filled "with the Spirit" (New Revised Standard Version,) as it is about being filled "by the Spirit" (New English Translation,).

The Greek construction found here does not indicate the content of the filling in any other New Testament verse, but instead, it often speaks about the means of being filled (i.e., how it happens). Furthermore, there are several verses in Ephesians which speak about being filled, and these need to be heard together.

In all cases, it is a member of the Holy Trinity that does the filling. Ephesians 1:23 speaks about a divine fullness of which the Church as Christ's body is the foretaste; in 4:10 it is stated more explicitly that Christ fills all things.

The church will be filled with all the fullness of God (3:19); here, "the fullness of God" (i.e., God's own presence) is the content of the filling. If we hear these other verses in connection with 5:18, the claim is that the church is filled with nothing less than the full presence of God in Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit. Amen. God bless and happy Pentecost Sunday in "the place where people matter"...Welcome back church!

Ps Tai

Our People



Hemi Mohi's brother passed away this week. We pray for comfort and peace in this time of your loss.



Garth Innes celebrates his 80th birthday on Saturday 30th May. We hope you have a fabulous day celebrating with family and friends Garth.

Marie Sabourgious has moved to Thames over the Lockdown period. She said that she is sad she couldn't say a proper farewell to her friends but wants you to know she will be back to catch up sometime in the future.

Happening

The **Women's Monday Morning Home Group** will start back in the Old Hall (next to the Prayer room) on Monday 8th June at 10am. Glenda is looking forward to catching up with you all.

Men's Group is once again meeting in the church starting Thursday 4th June at 7pm.

Rosanne's Zoom Prayer Groups meet on Mondays at 10am and 7.30pm. Email Rosanne for more information at rosanne@encouragedtopray.com

Greg and Libby are running a home group on Fridays at 6.30pm. Contact greg.libby@xtra.co.nz Libby 0226856690 or Greg 0220917364

One of the two services held at church today will be uploaded to our [YouTube](#) Channel later on today.