

2019 Pentecost penning by the Rector

Happy Pentecost! Unlike Christmas and Easter, our general response to the Feast of Pentecost often isn't that enthusiastic. This is so despite we have all the requisite head-knowledge – yes, we know it's the Church's Birthday; yes, out-pour of the Holy Spirit (with fire, wind, speaking of tongue, empowerment ...) is exciting; and yes, we all love to have the Spirit's guidance and protection. Yet, the hard fact remains: we somehow don't echo well enough for Pentecost!

Pentecostal downpour upon the Church did happen many times over the ages - after the first one in Jerusalem on the 50th day after Jesus' resurrection. It is God's grace and God's work (i.e. we can't make it happen except by co-operating with God through prayer). However, even not thinking big: about signs and wonders, or growths and revivals in church, we won't dampen our enthusiasm if we take Jesus' words for us seriously. Jesus said, 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you . . . if you love me . . . the Father . . . will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth . . . he abides with you and he will be in you.'

The Spirit of Jesus abiding with us and in us, to be our Advocate/Counsellor and to lead us in truth – shouldn't we be excited? Our world nowadays is filled with fake news, with even people in positions of trust telling lies to compromise their credentials as they pursue self-interests without counting costs to others. How fresh a blessing for us: to be led by the Spirit of truth, so that falsity got dispelled despite our foggy environment, and we be protected from its toxicity, so as to walk on in health and wellness, with joy and peace as signs of the Holy Spirit's presence with us! We surely don't want to be like Pontius Pilate (asking: what is truth?) whose pursuit of self-interests led him ignore the Spirit's nudging, instead crucifying the Holy One who came to testify to the truth. Let's welcome the Holy Spirit to be with us, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,

Parvula Lee



2019 聖靈降臨節牧者隨筆

跟聖誕節和復活節相比，我們甚少聽到大家互相祝願「聖靈降臨節快樂」，足見我們對此聖日有點隔膜感，儘管我們都曉得這個節日代表著「教會的誕生」、也指向聖靈降臨的非凡經歷（如風、火、說方言、大能降臨到門徒身上等等），但我們始終都表現不出熱烈的慶祝之心。

事實上，除了在主復活後第五十天聖靈首次降在相聚於耶路撒冷的門徒身上之外，在過去二千年來，聖靈亦有多次沛降於教會之上，以復興教會。這是上主的作為和恩典（我們的工作是以禱告作配合）。然而，即使我們可能覺得大能、異象、教會的復興等大題目離我們甚遠，我們起碼也該重視主耶穌告訴我們說：「我不撇下你們為孤兒，我必到你們這裏來。。。你們若愛我。。。父就另外賜給你們一位保惠師，叫祂永遠與你們同在，就是真理的聖靈。。。祂常與你們同在，也要在你們裏面。」

有著主的靈跟我們同在，住在我們裏面，作我們的保惠師（或訓慰師），引導我們進入真理，我們可不該感到興奮？現今的世代，到處都是假消息，就連任職作民眾可以信賴的高官也往往隨便撒謊以追求個人利益，不顧損害他人的代價。那我們得獲真理的聖靈引領我們可看清真理，排除虛偽所形成的濃霧和毒氣，好能活出整全的生命，有聖靈給我們平安喜樂作印証，這是何等福氣？我們肯定不願如彼拉多那樣一片迷惘的問：真理是甚麼呢？然後就為著私己的利益，妄顧聖靈的提示而把來到世間，特為真理作見證的救世主釘在十架之上！讓我們都欣然迎接聖靈來與我們同在，同住，從今時直到永遠。啊們。

主內，

李志敏

