



ALL SAINTS'

CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — June 5 & Beyond

"Multiversity as the Essence of Oneness"



It is common to think that when it comes to the idea of unity or oneness, the fewer the differences among the members of any given body, the closer they are to achieving this unity.

That can be true when differences mean deep discrepancies that lead to destructive conflicts that disrupt the unity of a group.

The story is totally different when we are dealing with the One Holy Spirit.

If we think about the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit that filled the disciples gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost, the first thing we notice in Luke's narrative is how the One Spirit shows Himself, not as one large dome of fire above all the disciples, but as divided tongues of fire over each of their heads.

Luke says nothing about the individual tongues of fire, but I have always had the idea that they must have looked discretely distinct, maybe with different hues of the same color.

What gives me this idea is what Luke himself says later on in the narrative, about how

the multicultural and multilingual crowd gathered there heard the disciples speak each in their own native language, as the Spirit gave each of the disciples the ability to do so.

The passage clearly speaks of differentiated gifts to each person, which makes me think of varied hues in the flames.

This first experience of the powerful manifestation of God's and Christ's Spirit to Jesus' followers clearly had a purpose that included multitudes of different national and ethnic origins. And the purpose did not include obliterating their diversity.

The Spirit did not make them hear God's deeds of power in a common language (it would have probably been Aramaic, or Greek, which most of the peoples of the nearby countries knew to a greater or lesser degree). The Spirit enabled them each to hear Christ's wonderful news of salvation in the language of their heart, their native tongue.

In other words, the rich diversity of humankind was highly valued and honored by the Holy Spirit.

When Paul speaks of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in his First Letter to the Corinthians, he stresses the idea of one and the same Spirit, in which we are all baptized, giving to each varied gifts, as the Spirit chooses to do, for the common good.

Paul also mentions that among those receiving these varied gifts are Jews and Greeks, sla and free persons, who are all made to drink of the One Spirit.

Sometimes when we hear the narrative of the Pentecost experience we tend to think that the Holy Spirit somehow erased the linguistic and cultural differences by making the message understandable to all present. The idea that prevails in this understanding of the narrative is one of unification.

There is nothing wrong with stressing the idea of the unity of all in the Spirit through the message of God's wonderful deeds of salvation for all the peoples, but the details of the passage that remind us how valuable and intrinsically essential the multiversity is for the Spirit's manifestation are often overlooked.

Let us celebrate the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost aiming at a greater unity in harmony and love among all the believers, and eventually in all humankind, but let us also celebrate the essential multiversity which makes this powerful manifestation possible.

Father Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for Pentecost Sunday-- Whitsunday

Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 Psalm 104:25-32 John 14:8-17

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY Pentecost Sunday -- Whitsunday

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation every second and fourth Sunday of the month at

11:30am Studying *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell

Rector's Study

A Spanish Mass will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth)

Sundays each month at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY The First Sunday after Pentecost – Trinity Sunday

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

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OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally