

Monday Quotes



Grain

“The President’s call to return to in-person worship is reckless, divisive, dangerous. We have protocols for returning. The church has not been closed these past months. The Body of Christ is connected and worshipping. Is it ideal? No. This is cynical pandering to a vulnerable base.” –ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Field

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Acts 2:1-8

Thoughts

The Holy Spirit burst through the gathering on the day of Pentecost, bringing people from separate cultures together. This Spirit was visible and particular in its action but transparent and ubiquitous, powerful but light. People who would not easily engage before noticed one another. This was a new beginning in the church and an example of how the Holy Spirit would continue to create and recreate without being contained.

Many church leaders, including Bishop Eaton, are proclaiming that the church has not been closed even though we haven’t been meeting in our buildings during the pandemic. The Holy Spirit pervades and persists through and around us. The Comforter does not go on vacation, even though many church leaders are probably in need of a break after suddenly pivoting and then consistently helping others to adjust to a new way of doing church.

Sheltering in place has been difficult in many ways. Whom have we noticed as a result? I’m suddenly thanking grocery store cashiers, wondering what it’s like to regularly serve people with varying possibilities of being infected by the coronavirus. A FB friend posted an article proposing the use of sign language for music in church when we begin returning; singing easily spreads the virus. Some already belong to a culture of signing. Many of us are experiencing isolation. Some were challenged to find community before the pandemic. A number of people are struggling to find the healthcare they need, spotlighting a system that has been unjust and broken for too long.

We are approaching Pentecost, and today is Memorial Day. We remember in gratitude Americans of all colors, ethnicities, and genders who gave their lives in military service. But not all soldiers were always permitted burial places on the same ground. And some were closeted about a part of their identity. On Pentecost, how is the Advocate calling us to notice and to be church? Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane