

Acts 2:1-21

Sermon part 1

The coming of the holy Spirit is often called the birthday of the church - today, on the day of Pentecost, the disciples went from being frightened followers of a forgotten man, to those who were filled with boldness and courage to tell others about who Jesus was and what he did, and the difference he makes in their lives today. The holy spirit filled them with such power that they were able to heal people in Jesus name, and even raise them from the dead. The Holy Spirit gave them a faith, a conviction, that meant all of these apostles would sooner lose their lives than deny that Jesus is Lord, and one by one, they did.

The Holy Spirit is nothing less than the presence of God - not in creator or fatherly being, not in friendly carpenter form - a human like us. But the spirit is the presence of God to be with us, in us, any time, any place, any where - God's spirit blows where he wills. No wonder Jesus said. It is better for you that I go, because if I go I will send you another helper. One that is not bounded by flesh and blood like me, but can be with you all, everywhere.

And Jesus, God, sends us this Spirit - the comforter, the advocate - with its dynamis! Because he wants to give us the power to do things he has asked us to do. It would be a mighty unfair God who set us up for failure! So he gives us his Spirit
So we might walk in his light
Live a life of humble obedience
That we may bear witness - tell others what God has done for us
And that we might make the right choices.

Happy Birthday Church. Happy Pentecost! And Thank you Father, for sending your son.

Luke 22.24-30

Sermon part 2

Our queen is 2 years off beating Louis 14th record, set in the 17th century, to be the longest reigning monarch ever.

But if our queen had been like Louis, or even like rulers of other countries - Pol Pot, Idi Amin, Putin - we would not be celebrating today.

The fact is, that we have been very blessed by Queen Elizabeth.

She had no choice about the job and role - she was not interviewed to be head of the church, which is a bad system because she was given all this power or responsibility but what if she was not suited to the job?

What if she did bad things with it?

But she didn't.

She has been a most excellent witness for the Christian faith - showing tolerance to people - presidents, prime ministers - that she clearly didn't like

She has shown wisdom and determination, in giving the commonwealth independence

She has attended church every week - it helps if one has one's own in the garden! But

think of all those pictures of her going to Sandringham at Christmas - look she says - the

church is still here, its still relevant. And if I, the richest most powerful person in the world need it - then I'm sure it could help everyone else too.

She has spoken, both personally and in worldwide public broadcast, of the strength she gets from the bible, and from prayer.

In her most troubling times, in her weakness, we have seen the strength of her God.

She talks of serving the country, of being a servant. And that's why this reading was suggested.

Some of us might get confused - but she has servants, she's not clearing the dishes, changing the sheets, running the Hoover round - she's not a servant!

Well I don't know if she runs the Hoover round, but she gets up everyday and goes to work - different job to ours, so maybe some of us find it hard to imagine. But maybe by "serving" she means, putting others first - doing what others ask and require of you, rather than what you'd like to do.

Please open our school, please support our charity

Day by day she goes out and does that - most people of her wealth - there aren't many - don't bother - they just go about on their yachts and planes having a good time. Many previous monarchs have done that.

Maybe serving also means doing what is uncomfortable, or unpopular, rather than what is easy or boosts our ego. How she keeps her opinions about things, how she sticks to her morals, like truth, or honour. If want to know what it could look like - look at our prime minister and the government who lies for him. They are not serving the country, they are serving themselves.

And how is our Queen able to do all this? What has helped her make the right choices, grow into the person she is now?

It Is the Holy Spirit.

At her coronation, there was the the same prayer that archbishops, bishops and even clergy have -

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and ..

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit

How apt that today we celebrate the gift of Holy Spirit, and Queen Elizabeth.

And as she has followed Jesus example of servant leadership

So let us be inspired too, to serve him and one another more each day

We may feel the calling is too great

We may feel unable to follow Christ - we're too weak or old or lack the time

But where we say - I will go, Lord

The Spirit will give us the power and strength we need.