



PENTECOST

Pentecost - worshipping with joy; inviting the Spirit to be poured out on you.

Devotionals for 26 September – 2 October 2021

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. During Jesus's last days on earth, He promised His followers that "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things" (John 14:26)

**GO! MAKE JESUS' LOVE KNOWN TO ALL!
Mark 16:15**

Those forty blissful days that followed the resurrection must have been wonderful for Christ's disciples, because the Savior whom they thought was dead and buried, following the gruelling time of His arrest, trial and crucifixion.. must have blossomed into a time to blissful gladness and joy as Jesus presented Himself to them alive.. and gave everyone His gracious reassurance that even the terrible act of denial cannot separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

How joyful they were as they witnessed the many convincing evidences, of His supernatural power during that period of forty days as Jesus spoke to them concerning the kingdom of God. And obviously they fully expected Him to immediately set up His earthly kingdom, which had been promised to Abraham and Israel, based on the questions the disciples asked Him, as recorded in Scripture.

And then came the moment that Jesus gathered them all together to give them His final important commands, before returning to His Father in heaven and leaving them to continue His important mission of reconciliation, to a lost and dying world: *they were not to depart from Jerusalem, or return to Galilee, but were to wait in the holy city for the promise from the Father, because Jesus told them that they were to be baptised with the Holy Spirit in a few days time.*

It is astonishing to realize that despite witnessing the many miraculous signs during His post-resurrection appearances, some of Christ's eleven chosen apostles still doubted the truth in their heart. And so came the time for His very last instruction: '*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. Go everywhere and preach the gospel to everyone*', was His instruction. **Evangelism** (the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness; zealous advocacy of a cause), was the final instruction that Christ gave to the fledgling church. They were commissioned with a world-wide missionary assignment - **to preach the gospel to the whole world.**

However, the completed gospel had not yet been received by these disciples when Christ ascended into heaven. Further revelation, which has been hidden from past generations was yet to be revealed to Saul of Tarsus, who would become the apostle Paul. Only hours before His crucifixion Jesus had let them know that there were many things that He wanted to tell them but they were not able to bear it at that time. Nevertheless, the core of the gospel had been acted out before their very eyes, only 40 days earlier, when the holy Messiah of God died according to the Scriptures, that He was buried and that He rose again according to the Scripture.

Christ's death was in payment for the sin of the whole world (for the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord), so that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life - and this is God's free gift of grace. Christ's resurrection broke the power of sin and death, in the lives of all who would place their trust in Him - and Christ's commission remains the same today: *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.. and He has promised lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world, amen.*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You that I am part of the body of Christ by faith in His death, burial and resurrection. Thank You that I have been entrusted with this heavenly mission to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. I

pray that in Your strength I will carry out this evangelistic mission in the place that You have put me.. to Your praise and glory. Thank You that You are with me to the end of the age, in Jesus name I pray, amen.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

GO INTO THE WORLD!

Verse: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

- Where have you seen God this week?
- What were your highs and lows this week?
- Tell how you went out to share the gospel to creation.

Share or journal a story when you were given the weirdest or most amazing task ever.

Read - Mark 16:9-13

1. How excited would you have been if you were one of the people who saw Jesus after His death?
2. How would you have reacted if you were one of the people who heard Jesus was alive but didn't see yourself?
3. What would it have taken for you to believe Jesus was alive?

Reread Mark 16:14

4. If you were a disciple, what would your reaction have been to seeing Jesus?
5. If you were a disciple, what would your reaction have been after Jesus rebuked you?

Reread Mark 16:15-20

6. What were the disciples called to do?
7. Verses 17-18 describe the signs of what the disciples will do. List the signs. What do they mean for Jesus' kingdom?
8. Jesus was taken to heaven and “sits at the right hand of God.” What does this mean to you?
9. What happened, according to verse 20?
10. What does verse 20 encourage us to do today?
11. Are you a disciple of Jesus?

Follow the calling of verse 20. While you may not be able to go out and heal people, you can comfort and show Jesus to the world. When you are the light of God in others' lives, they can be healed spiritually. Share or journal such and opportunity you've had.

All You Need is Love | OUR NEED FOR COMMUNITY

<https://www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/legacy/2012/04/bonding.pdf> (adapted)

Hebrews 10:24-25 – “Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love. This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing. In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning.”

Hebrews 3:12-13 - See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.”

These passages deals with the powerful role Christian community and fellowship play in encouraging Christians to grow and persevere in their faith. God has designed us to need one another. Often, we are unaware of how great that need is until we actually experience true Christian community; community that propels us forward in our holiness, ministries and walks with Christ. As a plant grows strong and healthy in good soil, God has designed us, too, in such a way, that we will only grow spiritually strong and healthy within the soil of a close-knit group of Christians.

The way in which “meeting together” as Christians causes spiritual vitality is manifold: there is encouragement in hearing of others’ struggles and victories in their walks of faith; there is motivation that comes from hearing the Word of God and learning insights others have into the Scriptures; and, in a less tangible way, there is the experience of the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of others, which fans-to-flame the Spirit of God in our own lives.

This scripture call us to see a particular aspect of Christian community that is often overlooked – the visible manifestation of God’s grace. Although God knew our deepest sin, He chose to love us in and through Jesus Christ. Being known in all of our weakness, insecurity and hidden sin, and yet being loved and accepted is critical to our lives being transformed by grace. Because we cannot visibly see God, He has designed Christian community to manifest this grace so we can truly experience it. To enjoy this transforming grace, we must have a few close Christian friends with whom we can be extremely honest and vulnerable.

Questions to ponder and answer:

1. In Hebrews 10:24-25 and 3:12-13, the term “one another” is used three different times. What instructions are given about how we are to relate to “one another”?
2. What is the purpose in “encouraging one another”?
3. The word “consider” means to ponder, observe or study. “Stimulate” means to spur or excite to action. Who are the people God has placed in your life to observe and think about?
4. What personally spurs you on to good deeds and loving others?
5. What could be some reasons for someone not wanting to speak into the lives of others by ‘considering’ and ‘encouraging’ them?
6. What do you think it means when it says “all the more as you see the Day approaching”? Why “all the more”?
7. Scripture tells us to “not give up meeting together.” What are the encouragements and benefits of meeting together as Christians that we cannot get on our own?
8. What personally draws you to a body of believers? What turns you away?
9. What would make those outside of your fellowship want to be a part of it? In what way(s) would they see Christ?
10. What was the last thing you did to encourage someone?
11. Has there ever been a time in your life when someone else’s encouragement protected you from turning away from God? Have you ever been there for someone else?
12. Satan often uses fears, insecurities and a busy schedule to lure us away from Christian community. What typically tempts you to avoid “meeting together”?

Being known in all of our weakness, insecurity, and hidden sin, and yet being loved and accepted is critical to our lives being transformed by grace. Because we cannot visibly see God, He has designed Christian community to manifest this grace so we can truly experience it.

13. Who knows your hidden “badness” and is still committed to loving and encouraging you? Who, specifically, do you manifest God’s grace, love and acceptance to? truly experience it.
14. Where have you felt your heart hardening or becoming less responsive to God?
15. Who is someone who could use your encouragement this week?
16. Why do you think Jesus looks to meet certain needs only through His body, the church?

Talking to Our Heavenly Father - *If we have faith, our prayers will be answered.*

You're Not Alone, Let Us Pray with You & For You

- Prayers of healing for Stanton Schmidt, great-grandson of Ms. Maureen Hornung and son of Brady and Payton Schmidt and little brother to Benton and Hudson. Stanton is in Children’s Hospital with pneumonia. Cards for miraculous healing can be sent to: Ms. Maureen Hornung, N168 W21920 Main Street, #110, Jackson WI 53037
- Our loving condolences and sincerest sympathies are extended to Mr. Tom Calenberg on the passing of his wife, Ms. Christine A. Calenberg. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at St. Frances Cabrini (1025 S. 7th Ave. West Bend, WI 53095). Cards and notes of comfort can be mailed to: Mr. Tom Calenberg, 617 South 16th Avenue, West Bend, WI 53095

- We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Ms. Jeanne Schacht on the passing of her sister-in-law, Ms. Margaret Rose “Peggy” Schmidt. Our prayers and support are extended to Ms. Jeanne and the Schmidt family. Card and notes for condolences can be mailed to Ms. Jeanne at: 4017 W. Hemlock St., Milwaukee, WI 53209
- Ms. Marilyn Liepert, recovering from a fall. The family ask for your continued prayers of healing and renewing of strength. Ms. Marilyn Liepert, 656 Wolcott St. West Bend WI 53090
- Mr. Ethan Schnell, Ms. Dot Edison’s daughter-in-law’s nephew. Ethan has gone through his last chemotherapy. He is doing well and hopes future tests will reveal he has been cured. Continue to keep him in your prayers. We give God thanks and praise for miraculous healing. Ethan’s wife is doing well. Cards and notes of continued prayer and encouragement can be mailed to: Ethan Schnell, 500 Melrose Street, Morgan Town West Virginia 26505
- Fifth Avenue UMC, thank you for your unceasing prayers for Ms. Irina Johnson, daughter (in-law) of Ms. Barb Johnson. Ms. Irina had surgery on 16 September 2021. The procedure as of this date went well. We will continue our journey with her and her family as God see her through healing and restoration. Cards and notes (which are needed and welcomed) of healing, strength and comfort can be mailed C/O Ms. Barb Johnson, Ms. Irina Johnson, 190 Mayer Street, West Bend, WI 53090
- Mr. Ted Meilahn, return of his strength and courage as he continues to have medical concerns. I had a delightful pastoral visit with Mr. Ted. He expressed his sincerest appreciation for all the card and prayers that have been given and said on his behalf. He is truly humbled by your care and support. Cards and notes of care and prayer can be mailed to: 1085 Fondu du Lac Ave., Box 23, Kewaskum, WI 53040
- Ms. Trisha Funke, daughter of Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel. Ms. Trisha has returned home. Other diagnostic testing is still pending. Cards of encouragement and prayers for continued healing and diagnosis can be sent to her parents: Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel, 629 Highland View Drive, West Bend WI 53095
- Mr. Roger Sacia, is requesting prayers for healing; Mrs. Nobi Sacia words of encouragement and prayers for healing. Mr. Roger and Ms. Nobi have permanently relocated to Madison with their daughter. Their new address is: 1626 Jefferson Street, Madison WI 53711
- Mr. William (Bill) & Mrs. Ginger Hornung would love to hear from you! Cards or notes of encouragement or “just thinking of you” can be mailed to: W194N16744 Eagle Dr. Room 3, Jackson, WI 53037
- Prayers of encouragement and steadfastness for Ms. Jennifer Cechvala, as she beings her Spiritual Guidance ministry ~ a place to ...breathe, be still, become. 5th Ave. UMC (lower level of the church in the former children’s library area).
- Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, continued healing; alankempf33@gmail.com; 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.
- Fifth Avenue UMC’s Laity, Accountable Leadership Board, Pastor & Bro. Martin – Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Bro. Bob Krell, continued prayer for healing; 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- Ms. Nancy Whitson, healing and strength; 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." 3 John 1:2

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me so much that while I was still dead in my trespasses and sins, Christ completed His finished work on the cross so that by grace through faith in Him, I might have forgiveness of sin and life everlasting. Thank You for those who taught me about the Lord Jesus and who demonstrated the love of Christ in their own lives - provoking me to love and good works in my own life. Help me to be so in tune with You that others may be provoked unto love and good works through my witness, as Christ lives in me and I in Him. Amen.

Your humble Pastor & Servant Leaders,

Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin