



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Reflection May 23, 2021

This Sunday: The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 – The disciples, gathered together in a house, were the first people visited by the Holy Spirit. Before his ascension, Jesus had promised them they would not be left alone: a Friend, a Comforter, an Advocate would come to them. Regardless of the various names we may read, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as “divided tongues, as of fire.” When the disciples attempted to describe what was happening to them, they spoke in different languages, ones they had not spoken before. When people heard about these strange events, they gathered outside to witness the spectacle, and to their astonishment, they understood what the disciples were saying in their own language! Some bystanders suggested the disciples had been sampling the wine too early in the day, but Peter spoke to them: *“In the last days, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”* (Acts 2:17-18)

Reflection: They Understood One Another

There is certainly plenty to reflect and sermonize on for Pentecost! One of the amazing aspects of the Pentecost story is this: “they understood each other.” I would like to believe it was not just the languages from all the various countries listed in Acts 2 that all the people understood, but it was the message behind the words that was heard and understood. Peter quite clearly guided those bystanders toward the truth.

One important lesson for us today is...to understand one another, we must listen to one another, and attempt to get the meaning when someone else speaks, particularly when we hear something that is strange or foreign or inconsistent with our beliefs. If we struggle with this, remember that our Friend, Advocate, Comforter...God’s Holy Spirit is with us! May it be so. AMEN.

Special Prayers: for recovery from illness and medical treatments John, Nancy, Wayne, and Susan. And may the peace which passes all understanding be with us this day and forever. Amen – Vance

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