



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERMON

6-8-14

“Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy; Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too may be holy; Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy; Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy; Guard me then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen” St. Augustine of Hippo

For as long as I am your priest, you will probably hear me talk about how much I love the Holy Spirit and how the celebration of Pentecost ranks right alongside Christmas and Easter. On this day we remember that we have received a gift of the Holy Spirit given to us by God and Jesus Christ. Could there be anything more wonderful than Jesus born into humankind to live among the people, Jesus being crucified and resurrected to defeat all evil and death, and now the Holy Spirit promised to dwell with us all forever. Amazing. Amen.

Yet what kind of pageantry do we have on this day? What special services? Where are the 150 people that attend at Christmas Eve and Easter? How are we honoring this gift with joyful celebration? I think that for too long we have felt uncertain, squeamish, or ignorant of the Holy Spirit. Some churches emphasize the crucifixion for salvation and some churches emphasize good teaching and judgment in order to be the church. And nowhere does the exciting, unpredictable Holy Spirit get any play. I think this should change.

So let's get a little deeper this morning with our understanding of this gift to each of us. A question for everyone to answer.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR? WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDE?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Powerful, present, unpredictable, uncontrollable, miracles, protects, guides, strength, courage, confronts, redirects, defeats evil, surprises, joy, new possibilities, advocates, defends, intercedes, speaks so all can understand/tongues/prayer, healing, prophecy, faithfulness, wisdom, discernment, for the common good, dwells with all,

WHAT IS THE CHURCH FOR?

WHAT ARE WE FOR?

In scripture and in the church we speak about being clothed with Christ. From Galatians, “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

How do you suppose we are clothed with Christ? How does Christ remain alive in our midst? We are clothed with the Holy Spirit. We are how Christ now lives in this world. We are clothed with Christ. We are filled with the Spirit. Our lives are to be.....

How can we not be excited? We have Christ clothing us, we have the promise from Jesus and the ability to do even greater things than he - through the precious Holy Spirit dwelling with each of us. Are you filled with

awe, excitement, thanksgiving – ready to continue to live as Christ’s body in this world? That’s our mission and our witness and our gift.

Thanks be to God.