"WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST"

TEXT: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."
(Acts 2: 1)

INTRODUCTION The people referred to in that simple statement were Jews who had been intimately associated with Jesus and who - in spite of all evidence to the contrary - were convinced that He was the fulfillment of all of their hopes and dreams. There was only a handful of them. There were no religious or political leaders among them. If there had been a "Who's Who In Palestine", their names would not have appeared in it. The vast majority of their own people not only thought that they were mistaken, but also that they were dangerous. They were upsetting the traditions of their people. They were disturbing what little peace there was left.

DEVELOPMENT This small group of dedicated Jews was meeting to worship God in the afterglow of their memory of Jesus. It was about six weeks after events of Good Friday and Easter Day. The upper room in which they were gathered may very well have been the upper room in which the disciples had shared in the last supper with Jesus. If it was, you can imagine the memories it held for them. And even if it was not, the memories would have been there.

After Jesus had gone, all the things in His life that they had taken for granted, or neglected, or missed altogether, were sharpened because of what had taken place in the meantime. So when they met together you can see how their minds turned backward to those days which they had lived through, but which in retrospect were now even more vivid and real than they had been at the time. Now they remembered every word that He had said, everything He had done, and they thought that He would come back to do the things He had not been able to do.

When or how, no one knew. Meanwhile, there was nothing to do but wait. Breaking of bread.

On the Day of Pentecost, therefore, they were all "with one accord in one place", waiting...as it were...for something to happen. And something totally unexpected did happen. As the account reads in the Book of Acts,

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit."

INTERPRETATION Now this is not the kind of language that you might use to tell a person how to get from 86th Street down to Times Square by either bus or subway. Rather, it's the kind of language that one might use to tell another how it feels to be in love.

In other words, this is the language of imagination. If we had been in the upper room that day we would have heard no wind or seen no fire. No one's hair would have been singed, no head scorched. However, we would have seen something happen to a group of individuals. We would have seen them taken out of their nostalgic memories of the past in which it was so tempting for them to dwell. We would have seen them drawn out of their dreams of the future, which as yet had no reality in the present. We would have seen them plunged into the present
life of the world. We would have seen them blown out of that upper room which was so safe, so secure, so surrounded by familiar associations, blown right out of that upper room into the highways and byways of the world.

We would have seen a group of people given something to do, namely, to tell the people of the world all about this new life in Christ which they had experienced. And we would have seen them given the power to do it, namely, the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what took place on Pentecost. The followers of Jesus became conscious of the presence and the power of God in their lives.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? Every now and then people will ask: what is the Holy Spirit? What do you mean by it? Phillips Brooks, one of America's great preachers of the 19th century, once wrote that:

"The Holy Spirit is God continually in the midst of men... touching their daily lives... He is the God of continual contact with mankind."

And one of the creeds we often use in our service puts it this way:

"We believe in the Holy Spirit as the Divine Presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the Truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need."

In other words, the Holy Spirit is God as we know Him when He comes down and gets inside these rather stubborn, lazy lives of ours and gives us the power to do things.

In the religious sphere man confronts God in three places: in the splendor and order of nature (the celestial God of the cosmos); in the historical person of Christ...God walking the earth in Jesus Christ; and third, in the depths of his own heart. They are respectively: God, the Father, God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit.

And so the Holy Spirit came down upon that little group of people who had gathered together and from there they went out into the world and thus began the Christian Church. Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. It's one of the three great days of the year for the Christian - the other two being Christmas and Easter. It's often affectionately spoken of as Whitsun tide on the other side of the Atlantic.

CAN IT HAPPEN AGAIN? They were ordinary people - like ourselves - but they were able to do the unbelievable and the extraordinary because the Holy Spirit was at work in their lives. This happened a long time ago, and I think it's only natural that people today ask the question: granted it happened then, can it happen again. Is it possible for this self-same Spirit to be experienced in our lives? Is it something more to us than just a memory.

I believe that what happened on Pentecost can - in different and unexpected ways - happen again... dedicated people willing to be picked up, possessed and used as instruments of the Holy Spirit so that they can be the instruments of His love and witnesses to His reconciling power.

I believe that it happens here on occasion. There are times - at least I feel
it and I think some of you do, too - when we are here in one place and with "one accord" and God, so to speak, comes down and gets into our lives and sends us out to carry the burden, to forgive the offender, to meet the problems and obstacles, to rise above despair and discouragement, to seek and to save the lost, to take a stand.

And so we meet today on this Anniversary of Pentecost - waiting, expecting the spirit of God to touch us, to lift us up, to lead us out into the world where mean and women lives, work, suffer and die, and there to be the instruments of His love and power.

Pray God that it may happen here, now, in our worship.

PRAYER

"We thank thee, O God, for the Church that has met in various places down through the ages, sometimes in great cathedrals and sometimes in catacombs and sometimes in the out of doors and in the open fields.

Help us to recover in our own lives the thing that makes the Church its real self, and then send us out to carry that Spirit of the Living Christ into our homes and offices, our schools and clubs, wherever we may be.

We ask this in the spirit of Jesus, whose spirit came to us in great force and power on Pentecost and brought about the birth of what we today call the Christian Church."

SCRIPTURE: 2: 37 - 47
ANTHEM: "How Lovely Are the Messengers"

"How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their trumpet."

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The organ postlude - a final offering of our praise to God - is played after the Benediction. Time permitting, we invite you to remain to share in it.

AT THE ORGAN CONSOLE

We welcome Mr. Michael Fardink to the organ console this morning in the absence of Mr. Lyndon Woodside.

PICK UP YOUR COPY

Be sure to pick up your copy of the June issue of "A Word In Edgeways" in order to stay up to date on church news and concerns. Copies are available in the narthex by the door as well as on the table in the downstairs Community Room.

USHERS

The ushers today are Mr. Monge, Mr. Williams, Mr. Brown, Mr. Russell and Mr. Tingue.

THE ENVELOPE IN THE PEW

The Community Room of our Church is in need of redecoration and general refurbishment. The work has been scheduled for late June and early July. It will cost us about $8,000 to do what needs to be done.

We are fortunate to have $3,000 of the needed $8,000 already in hand. Over the next few weeks we shall be conducting a congregational drive to raise the remaining $5,000.

Gifts of all sizes are needed and are most welcome. If you can respond with a gift, place it in the envelope in the pew and drop it in the offering plate.

We have already received 31 gifts that total $1,500. We're off to a fine start! Thank you very much.

AN ADULT CLASS

A class for adults meets on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the third floor Fellowship Hall. William Proctor serves as leader. Coffee is available and new members are always welcome.

PAMC T-SHIRTS

The Park Avenue Methodist Church T-shirts have arrived and are available for purchase. There are sizes to fit all. Adults are $5.00; Children's $4.00.
PARK AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
106 East 86th Street
New York, N. Y. 10028
AT 9-6997

CHURCH DIRECTORY
Rev. Philip A. C. Clarke ........................................ Minister
Dr. Harold C. Metzner ........................................ Associate Minister, Emeritus
Mr. Lyndon Woodside ........................................ Organist-Choir Director
Mrs. Lynn B. Cohen ........................................ Secretary
Mrs. Carol Lee Nespolo ........................................ Secretary
Mrs. Judith Keisman ........................................ Day School Director
Mr. Abdo Alnaham ........................................ Custodian

GENERAL OFFICERS
Lay Member, Annual Conference ..................... Mr. David Breien
Lay Leader, The Church ............................... Mr. William Proctor
President, Board of Trustees ..................... Miss Elody Hoelscher
President, United Methodist Women ............. Mrs. Morton Delson
Chairman, Administrative Board ................... Mr. Kenneth Pew
Chairman, Council on Ministries ................. Ms. Joyce Veenstra
Chairman, Education Committee ..................... Mrs. James Nespolo
Chairman, Finance Committee ....................... Mr. Edward J. Brown
Chairman, Church Property Committee .......... Mr. Eric Smith
Chairman, Membership Committee ................ Miss Bonnie Bray
Co-Chairmen, Day School Committee ............. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes
Chairman, Ushers ......................................... Mr. Kenneth Barclay
Coordinator, Adult Fellowship ..................... Miss Doreen Surber

PARK AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEAST OF PENTECOST
June 3, 1979

ORDER OF WORSHIP
11 A. M.

ORGAN
"Selected Chorale Preludes"  W. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP
HYMN NO. 293 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

APOSTLES' CREED  No. 738

GLORIA PATRI  No. 792

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SCRIPTURE  Acts 2: 1 - 13  Page 948

PARISH CONCERNS

ANTEHO
"How Lovely Are the Messengers"  Mendelssohn

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY
HYMN NO. 134 "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

MEDITATION  "What Happened On Pentecost"  Mr. Clarke

PRAYER

***

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
The Kyrie (Choir)
The Invitation (No. 832)
The General Confession
The Prayer for Pardon
The Prayer of Consecration
The Prayer of Humble Access
The Agnus Dei
The Partaking of the Elements
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

HYMN NO. 132 "Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness"

BENEDICTION

"Fugue in C Minor"  W. S. Bach

*** Interval for Ushering

LAY READER

We welcome Mrs. Bobbie Heron as our Lay Reader today. A native of Jackson, Tennessee, Bobbie holds a BS Degree from Lane College, Tennessee in social sciences. She has done graduate study both at the University of Puerto Rico and the Baruch School of Public Administration. She is employed by the NY City Housing Authority as Chief, Executive Correspondence Unit.

Mother of Gil Scott-Heron, a well-known young musician, Bobbie is a member of the Choir and recently joined our Church.

ALTER FLOWERS

The flowers on the alter today are given by Nancy Young Sandone and Thomas DeRosa in honor of their loving parents and grandparents. Nancy and Tom were married in the sanctuary at noon on Saturday.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sessions of Church School for children are offered every Sunday morning from eleven to twelve. Classes meet on the third and fourth floors as well as in the Community Room. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available on the fourth floor.

AN INVITATION

Coffee and tea will be served in the Community Room following the service. Members and friends are invited to share in these moments of warmth made possible for us today by Mrs. Whelan, Ms. French, Mrs. Reyno and Miss Wilks.

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"WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST"

TEXT: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place"

(Acts 2: 1)

INTRODUCTION The people referred to in that line were Jews who had been intimately associated with Jesus and who, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, were convinced that He was the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams.

There was only a handful of them. There were no religious or political leaders among them. If there had been a "Who's Who In Palestine", their names probably would not have appeared in it. The vast majority of their own people not only thought that they were mistaken, but also that they were dangerous. They were upsetting some of the traditions of their people. They were more and more disturbing what little peace there was left.

DEVELOPMENT It was some fifty days after the event of Easter. This small group of dedicated Jewish people was meeting to worship God in the afterglow of their memory of Jesus. The upper room in which they were meeting may very well have been the upper room in which the disciples had their last supper with Jesus. If it was, you can imagine the associations with which it was crowded. And even if it was not, the memories would have been there.

After Jesus had gone, all the things in His life that they had taken for granted, or neglected, or missed altogether were sharpened because of what had taken place in the meantime. So when they met together you can see how their minds turned backward to those days which they had lived through, but which in retrospect were even more vivid than they had been at the time. Now they remembered every word that He had said, everything He had done, and they thought that He would soon come back to do the things He had not been able to do while with them. When or how, no one knew. Meanwhile, there was nothing to do but wait.

On the day of Pentecost, therefore, they were all with "one accord in one place" waiting, as it were, for something to happen. And something totally unexpected did happen. As the account reads in the Book of Acts,

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit".

INTERPRETATION I'm sure all of you recognize that this is not the language that one would use to tell another person how to get from East 86th Street to Times Square. This is rather the kind of language that one person would use to tell another how it feels to be in love.

In other words, this is the language of imagination. If we had been in the upper room on that day we would have heard no wind or seen no fire. No one's hair would have been singed, no head would have been scorched. However, we would have seen something happen to a group of individuals. We would have seen them
"breathed" into our lives? Is the whole concept of the Holy Spirit simply a memory, or does it have meaning for us today?

I believe that what happened on Pentecost can happen again - in different and in unexpected ways...in dedicated people...open and receptive...willing to be picked up, possessed and used as instruments of the Holy Spirit...and thus become instruments of His love and witnesses to His reconciling and redeeming power.

I believe that it happens here on occasion - when we are here in one place and with one accord and God...so to speak...comes down and gets into our hearts and our wills...and then sends us out to carry the burden - to forgive the offender, to meet the obstacles, to rise above despair and defeat, to seek and to save the lost.

CLOSING And so we meet here today on this Anniversary of Pentecost - the day some fifty days after Easter - the day when the followers of Jesus became conscious of a Power far greater than their own...at work in their lives...and so we meet today - waiting, expecting the spirit of God to touch us, to lift us up, and to lead us out into the streets of this city, where men and women live and work, suffer and die...and there to be the instruments of His power and His love.

PRAYER On this Festival of Pentecost, when we celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church, we thank thee for the church that has met in various places down through the ages

sometimes in great cathedrals and sometimes in catacombs
and sometimes in the open fields and crowded streets.

Help us to recover in our own lives the thing that makes the church its real self, and then send us out to carry that spirit of the living Christ into our homes, our offices, our schools, wherever we may be.

Amen
TEXT: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1)

INTRODUCTION The people referred to in that simple statement were Jews who had been intimately associated with Jesus and who, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, were convinced that he was the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams. There was only a handful of them. There were no religious or political leaders among them. If there had been a "Who's Who in Palestine", their names would not have been included in it. The vast majority of their own people not only thought that they were mistaken, but also that they were dangerous. They were upsetting the traditions of their people; they were disturbing what little peace there was left.

DEVELOPMENT This small group of dedicated Jews was meeting to worship God in the afterglow of their memory of Jesus. The upper room in which they were gathered may very well have been the upper room in which the disciples had their last supper with Jesus. If it was, you can imagine the associations with which it was crowded. And even if it was not, the memories would have been there. After Jesus had gone, all the things in his life that they had taken for granted, or neglected, or missed altogether, were sharpened because of what had taken place in the meantime. So when they met together you can see how their minds turned backward to those days which they had lived through, but which in retrospect were even more vivid than they had been at the time. Now they remembered every word that he had said, everything he had done, and they thought that he would come back to do the things he had not been able to do. When or how, no one knew. Meanwhile, there was nothing to do but wait.

On the day of Pentecost, therefore, they were all with one accord in one place, waiting, as it were, for something to happen. And something totally unexpected did happen. As the account reads in the Book of Acts, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit"

INTERPRETATION I'm sure that all of you recognize that this is not the language that one would use to tell another person how to get from 86th Street to Time-Square. This is rather the kind of language that one person would use to tell another how it feels to be in love. In other words, this is the language of imagination. If we had been in the upper room on that day we would have heard no wind or seen no fire. No one's hair would have been singed, no head would have been scorched. However, we would have seen something happen to a group of individuals. We would have seen them taken out of their nostalgic memories of the past in which it was a temptation for them to dwell. We would have seen them drawn out of their dreams of the future, which had as yet no reality in the present. We would have seen them plunged into the present life of the world. We would have seen them almost blown out
of the upper room, which was so safe, so secure, so surrounded by
familiar associations, blown right out of that upper room into the
streets, the hostile streets, of Jerusalem. We would have seen a
group of people given something to do, namely, to tell the people
of the world all about this new life in Christ which they had ex-
perienced. And we would have seen them given the power to do it,
namely, the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what took place on
Pentecost.

Every now and then people will ask, what is the Holy Spirit? What
do you mean by it? Phillips Brooks, one of America's greatest
preachers, said that "The Holy Spirit is God continually in the
midst of men......touching their daily lives....He is the God of
continual contact with mankind". One of our creeds (found the back
of our hymnal on page 512) puts it this way: "We believe in the
Holy Spirit as the Divine Presence in our lives, whereby we are kept
in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength
and help in time of need". In other words, the Holy Spirit is God
as we know him when he comes down and gets into our lives. There
is the celestial God of the cosmos who somehow keeps in control all
the stars of the Milky Way and millions of others of which we have
no knowledge at all. There is the God who walked the earth in Jesus
Christ, and there is the Holy Spirit who sometimes gets inside these
rather stubborn, lazy temples of our bodies and gives us the power
to do things.

And so the Holy Spirit came down upon that little group of
people who had gathered together in one place with one accord, and
from there they went out into the world and thus began the Christian
Church. They were ordinary people like ourselves, but they were
able to do the unbelievable and the extraordinary because the Holy
Spirit was at work in their lives.

CAN IT HAPPEN AGAIN? This happened a long time ago, and I think
it's only natural that people today in the
20th century may raise questions in their minds concerning it. Granted
that it happened then, can it happen again? Is it possible for
this self-same Spirit to be breathed into our lives? Is the operation
of the Holy Spirit simply a memory or does it have relevance for us?

I believe that what happened on Pentecost can, in different and
unexpected ways, happen again....dedicated people willing to be
picked up, possessed and used as instruments of the Holy Spirit so
that they can be the instruments of his love and witnesses to his
reconciling power. I believe that it happens here on occasion. There
are times, at least I feel it, and I think some of you do too, when
we are here in one place and with one accord and God, so to speak,
comes down and gets into our lives and sends us out to carry the
burden, to forgive the offender, to meet the difficulties, to rise
above despair, to seek and save the lost, to take a stand. And so
we meet here together on this anniversary of Pentecost, the day when
the followers of Jesus became conscious of a power far greater than
themselves, at work in their lives....and so we meet together....waiting,
expecting the spirit of God to touch us, to lift us up, and to lead
us out into the streets of the world where men and women live, work,
suffer and die....there to be the instruments of his power and love.
LET US PRAY:

We thank thee, O God, for the church that has met in various places down through the ages, sometimes in great cathedrals and sometimes in catacombs and sometimes in the fields. Help us to recover in our own lives the thing that makes the church its real self, and then send us out to carry that spirit of the living Christ into our homes, our offices, our social clubs, our schools, our factories, wherever we may be. We ask this in the spirit of Jesus, whose spirit came to us on Pentecost. Amen
And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ACTS II-1:4
FESTIVAL OF PENTECOST
June 2nd 1963

ORDER OF WORSHIP
11 A. M.

ORGAN
"Larghetto - Concerto #1" Handel
"Larghetto - Concerto #5"

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES
HYMN NO. 361 "The church is one foundation" Page 523

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

GLORIA PATRI

PRAYER FOR PURITY
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
OFFERTORY ANTHEM "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place"

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY
HYMN NO. 180 "Breathe on me, Breath of God"

SERMON "What Happened on Pentecost" Mr. Clarke

PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION RITUAL
The Invitation (Standing) Page 528
The General Confession (Seated) Page 529
Prayer and Comforting Words
The Sursum Corda and the Sanctus
Prayers of Consecration and Humble Access
The Agnus Dei (The Choir)
The Partaking of the Elements
The Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Gloria in Excelsis (Standing)

HYMN NO. 179 "Spirit of God"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN "Postlude in C Minor" Duncan

*** Interval for ushering

AN INVITATION

Coffee will be served in Fellowship Hall following the service. Hostesses today are Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Kim, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Divorl.

USHERS

The ushers for today's service are Mr. Bowater, Mr. Merget, Mr. Montanelli, and Mr. Paech.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by a member of this church in gratitude for life's many blessings.

NURSERY AND KINDERGARTEN AT ELEVEN

Sessions for pre-school children are held on the fourth floor each Sunday morning from eleven to twelve-thirty. The mothers, fathers, and helpers involved in today's program are Mr. and Mrs. Wolf, Mrs. Hull, Mrs. Levy, and Miss Anderson.

OFFICIAL BOARD TO MEET

The Official Board will meet on Tuesday evening, June 4th at 8:15 pm, in Fellowship Hall. The Stewardship and Finance Commission will meet the same evening at 7:15 pm in the fourth floor lounge.

YOU ARE INVITED

An invitation is extended to all members of the congregation to share in the June Festival of the Methodist Church Home for the Aged to be held on Thursday, June 13, 1963. A New England supper will be served from five to seven. Musical entertainment will be offered following the supper. Tickets cost $1.25.

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