



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

May 25-31, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester

Pentecost

Sermon Title: *Transitions*: “Why We Need Each Other”

Notes from sermon on 5/24:

Things to Pray For This Week:

Household Question:

Complete this sentence: The church is at its best when_____.

Questions for Small Groups

1. What prophetic word for the community has God given to you?
2. In what ways do you struggle with conflicts between your way of life and the prophetic word God would have you proclaim to others?
3. How are the acts of God manifest in your life and witness?

Monday, May 25: Read Acts 2:1-13

It is so easy now for us to feel alone, isolated, disconnected, even lost. As a church, we have not been together in corporate worship for more than two months, and we are feeling it. And yet, in the midst of all of our isolation comes Pentecost, the most bright, vibrant, loud, kinetic, bombastic day of the Christian year, a day that reminds us of how God brings us together. A day that reminds us that we are not alone.

For the past few weeks, we have read of the many transitions the disciples endured through the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. They often felt alone, isolated, disconnected, and lost. They also felt powerless. Yet on this day, the day of Pentecost, they heard voices that brought them together- ones that erased the differences and made them one, despite their social distance. Some were amazed and searched for the higher meaning of it all. Others were cynical and created their own lower meaning of it all.

Which will we be? Will we see the opportunities, the new connectivity, and the empowerment behind the voices calling us together as a church, a community, a nation, and a world today? Or will we only see dysfunction, human weakness, and hopelessness? Will we approach Pentecost Sunday with faith in a God

that can make our church stronger and more cohesive than ever? Will we see opportunities to reach those we've never reached before? We will allow ourselves to be reached in ways never before?

Tuesday, May 26: Read Acts 2:14-21

In today's scripture, we see God's Holy Spirit bringing this disparate people together, not only giving them power and purpose on a scale never seen before in human history, but giving their human history power and purpose through the fulfillment of prophecies and scripture. Peter reminds the crowds that they have been through difficult times in the past, yet God both delivered them and made promises of an incredible future.

Yes, we have been through some hard times, individually and collectively as a church. We know, however, through our own history and through the promises of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that we are endowed with power and purpose that can redeem the past and build an incredible future. This week, as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost together, let us ask ourselves to what power and purpose God is calling us.

Wednesday, May 27: Read 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

The Holy Spirit is not just at work *for* us in the world, it is at work *in* us and *through* us. As we look for deliverance, let us not fail to look within ourselves, recognizing the power and gifts God has given each of us that can be used to pull us together and help heal one another and our world. As we live through this time when things have slowed down and fewer human voices surround us, can we better tune into God's Spirit within us for answers, direction, and inspiration? What more could each of us be doing for the common good. We are still one body, no matter where we are physically located. What amazing things are we expecting God to do through us during this incredible time?

Thursday, May 28: Read John 7:37-39

We are all thirsty. We all crave living water. So many in our community and world are quietly and desperately reaching out for love, purpose, hope, joy, peace, belonging, and safety. We can all find it through the living water of Christ. We can also all provide it through Christ's living spirit that dwells within each of us. Each of us can think of at least one person who would feel more connected, treasured, and hopeful if we reached out to them. Each of us can share words of hope rather than despair; joy rather than sorrow. How can we be the living water of Christ to others today?

Friday, May 29: Read Psalm 104:24-35

We choose to see life, progress, blessings, power, love, wonder, and glory. We choose to sing praises and notice both the things small and great. We will find wonder and adventure within our homes and backyards, even as we marvel at the beauty of the universe God created. We choose to sing of connection and providence, of renewal and rebirth. We choose the joy of our heavenly family and home, the blessed assurance of eternal life. Together, let us be voices of joy and gratitude and power, both for each other as a church and for the world that so desperately needs it, now and forever.

Saturday, May 30: Scripture Memorization: 1 Corinthians 12:7

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (NRSV)

Sunday, May 31: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *God of new creation, we confess that we have failed to trust your bountiful goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit you brought forth the earth and its creatures in abundance. Yet, we hoard earth's resources and refuse to share your gifts. We dishonor your generosity by withholding our charity to those in need. We betray your kindness by dealing harshly with our enemies. We disregard your compassion by severely judging the sins of others. Forgive us. By the power of your Spirit renew our hearts and free us from sins that we may enjoy the fullness of your blessing upon all creation. Amen.*