

Pastor's Letter

May 19, 2024—Pentecost Sunday

Dear Church Family,

Despite the differences of culture, language, ethnicity, etc., human beings are more alike than we are different. We all need the same basic things; food, shelter, water, a place to live and raise our families. We want the same things for ourselves and our kids; peace and security, prosperity and opportunity. And we all have the same questions; Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? How should I live?

Sometimes we let the differences overshadow what we have in common. We allow our preferences, opinions, and tastes to harden into walls that separate us into “us” and “them.” We allow fear to turn otherness into a threat and healthy competition and ambition into jealousy, greed, and animosity. The differences among us are a good gift from God. They give us a fresh way of looking at things and make life more interesting and beautiful. Division is a rejection of that gift brought about by the selfishness and pride that results from our fall into sin.

The Father sent the Son into the world to reconcile all of us to him and to each other. By the way Jesus lived he showed us how to love. By his death he bridged the gap between God's holiness and our sinfulness. By his resurrection he broke the power of death and hell. By his ascension he made a place for all of us in the heart of God. And with the coming of the Holy Spirit into our hearts, which we celebrate today, all who believe in Christ are brought together as his mystical body.

This is the meaning of the events of the first Pentecost, when people from all over heard in their own languages the good news that God had moved to meet their deepest need for healing and hope. The answer to those universal questions we all have are found through faith in Christ our Lord. That good news is still going out to every corner of the world in every language of humanity. We as the Body of Christ are his voice, speaking the word of hope that can overcome every division. May God help us to give ourselves over to the guidance of the Holy Spirit we have received so that we may all be one in Christ and once more experience our differences as a blessing and a reflection of the creativity and multifaceted glory of God.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott