

31st May 2020 – Morning Service

“What is Church” Mini Series - Week 3: Church – Transformed and empowered by God

Rev Josephine Soon

Call to worship - Psalm 104: 33-35

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Introduction

If you’re joining us for the first time, either in ‘Virtual Church’ or reading the service sheet, welcome. This is our 3rd and final message in this series focusing on ‘What is Church?’ We find some major turning points: Church as God’s redeemed pilgrim people, Church as a witness to the world and Church that is transformed and empowered by God. God continues to enable us to live his way and accomplish his work through the Holy Spirit.

Most Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter - worshipping God the Father and God the Son. God the Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost, has often been overlooked. Who is He, the third person, of the Trinity God?

Pentecost is everyday, in fact every moment of our lives, that we fix our eyes on Jesus and see Him as our Master and our Lord. Our relationship with the Spirit becomes vivid, profound and personal. The Holy Spirit imparts life into the spirits of the followers of Jesus Christ; dwelling in the heart of believers and acting as God’s presence in us, with us and through us.

StF 263 – Hosanna

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| 1) Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!

Lord, we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, O Lord, my God!

Hosanna in the highest! | 2) Glory, glory,
Glory to the King of kings!

Glory, glory,
Glory to the King of kings!

Lord, we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, O Lord, my God!

Glory to the King of kings! |
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Prayer

Dear God, Let the Spirit you sent on your Church to begin the teaching of the gospel, continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn – Breathe on me, Breath of God

- 1) Breathe on me, Breath of God;
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldest do.
- 2) Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until my will is one with thine,
To do and to endure.
- 3) Breathe on me, breathe on me,
So that I will never die,
Breathe on me, breathe on me,
Grant me everlasting life, everlasting life
- 4) Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glowes with thy fire divine.
Breathe on me

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Prayers

For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind and stills our life, we give you thanks.
For the Spirit of Love that touches hearts and reaches out, we give you thanks.
For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul and gives us faith, we give you thanks.
For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace for this, your church, we give you thanks.

God of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, we ask for your forgiveness, when we forget the power that lies within, and trust instead upon our human strength. Remind us of that glorious day when your Spirit transformed the lives of those who hid in fear, into people of power. So, we bring to you all of us, our church family and friends who want to be transformed and renewed by you, Holy Spirit. Come and renew these hearts, which have grown cold, with flames of fire, as on that Pentecost, that this might be the church that you desire.

We bring to you all those we know and love; those who are seeking you...; those who are struggling & suffering... Give them your salvation, Lord; Give us all the joys that never end. **Amen.**

Reflection

Fix our eyes on Jesus by the power of His Spirit

I cannot tell you what God is going to do with this time of **sheltering**. But I can tell you what God has done during the time of **sheltering** in the past. I hope that, once you review the truth of history from the Bible, you will know what God is going to do this time, with your life too.

God **sheltered** Noah and his family for one year in the ark until Noah **emerged** to become the father of all the nations of the world.

God **sheltered** Jacob in the home of his uncle Laban when he needed to escape the wrath of Esau, his brother. Twenty years later, Jacob **emerged** with a new family, new wealth, and a new identity: he became Israel - the new name for God's chosen people.

God **sheltered** Moses in a remote desert for 40 years but Moses came forth to liberate the Jewish people from Egypt.

God **Sheltered** Naomi in the barren land of Moab until she nearly became bitter. But she and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, travel to Bethlehem to participate in one of the greatest love stories of history.

God **sheltered** Jonah for three days and three nights in the belly of a big fish. When the sheltering was over Jonah went to Nivevah and preached history's greatest revival.

God **sheltered** Esther while in the palace of the Persian King and she saved her people from destruction.

God used each of the individuals above, man and woman, in the time of 'lock down'. Now, how can a believer be filled with the Spirit, like them? Each of them had a strong and close relationship with God. So close to God that each of them heard and saw the movement of the Spirit and followed Him.

How is your soul recently? Are you hungry for the Breath of God to fill you? Are you longing to be one of these faithful servants of God (as above)?

Hymn – Lord, transform me

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| 1) Lord I come before you with a contrite heart
Humbly I surrender all that I am
I want to learn from you, please draw me
close to you
Help me share your love and grace in all I do | 2) Help me shine a light to a darkened world
And always live your truth in every way
May your love for me be seen by everyone
And lead others to trust and love You more. |
| Ch) <i>Oh Lord, transform me
Change my heart completely to be more like
you
Oh Lord, renew me
Heal my mind and broken heart today
I want to be and to do what you commanded
And be filled with your Spirit everyday
I want to serve you wherever you may lead me
I want to serve you 'til the very end.</i> | Lord transform me to serve
Lord transform me to serve |

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Reading: Acts 2:1-4 – The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Sermon

You see, the Triune God works closely in and with one another; Father-Son- Spirit.

Acts 2:1 ‘...they were all together in one place’

A space – holy ground crying for God’s reign in and through them.

‘Together’ – One Mind, One Heart, One Spirit, One Body

Acts 1:2-3

Holy Spirit = Wind, Fire, Breath, air...water, the Spirit of Truth (John 16:8-13)

Other characters – alive, moving, unpredictable, powerful, energy, newness...

Focus:

- Spirit enable & testify to believer who is Jesus to us & testify God is our Father.
- Spirit to empower us to hear/see the Truth
- Transform us from(of the world) to(of Kingdom of God)

A continuing process – commitment & accountability with one another

A continuing process....renewing of mind, spirit, body, heart....holiness

A continuing processspiritual growth in grace and knowledge.

A continuing process....retrain our body – discipline in feeding our spiritual needs

Always start from ‘Love God’ then ‘Love your neighbour’. Nothing mentioned about ourselves or things that belong to us.

Empowered/enabled the Church to witness the Truth (gospel) to the world.

Closing Blessing

The Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. Amen.

May his favour be upon you and a thousand generations, and your family and your children and their children and their children. May his presence go before you, behind you, beside you, all around you and within you. He is with you in the morning, in the evening, in your coming and your going, in your weeping and rejoicing. He is for you. He is for you.