

# **Preparing for Worship**

**Notes from Rodney Barbour**

**Sunday June 4, 2017**

## **Theme: UN4GIVN (part 4 of 4) Reconciliation**

Today Pastor Shawn completes his series of sermons in the UN4GIVN series. As well, today is PENTECOST SUNDAY. We remember that 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks. Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel.

**Preparation for Worship:** Read Isaiah 25:6-9. Here is a marvelous prophecy of the Gentiles joining the Jews at God's feast to celebrate the overthrow of evil and the reality of eternity with God. It shows that God intended his saving message to go out to the whole world, not just to the Jews. During the feast, God will end death forever (25:7,8). The people who participate in this great feast will be those who have been living by faith, and are now being rewarded. That is why they say, "This is our God, in whom we trust, for whom we waited. Now at last he is here" (25:9). The first part of 25:8 is quoted in the New Testament to describe Christ's victory over death (I Corinthians 15:54). God's ultimate victory is seen when death, our ultimate enemy is defeated. The second part of 25:9 is quoted in Revelation 21:4, which describes the glorious scene of God's presence with his people.

*By your mercy find in me your image Lord, that I may be a true reflection of your face, by your mercy, by your mercy. By your mercy speak to me clear words of hope and victory; your loving voice assuring me of your mercy, of your mercy, of your mercy. Your righteousness exalts me to your throne where I may stand by faith in Christ alone; not by any merit of my own, but by your mercy. By your mercy set me free in childlike faith to trust and see your truth in radiant robes displayed, robes of mercy, robes of mercy. Your righteousness exalts me to your throne, where I may stand by faith in Christ alone; not by any merit of my own, but by your mercy, by your mercy.*

**Call to Worship** We receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus Christ. We belong to Christ with his Spirit. We are united to Christ with his Spirit. We are adopted as his children with his Spirit. We are in the body of Christ through his Spirit. The Spirit is the power of our “new” lives. He begins a lifelong process of change as we become more like Christ. When we receive Christ by faith, we begin a lifelong process of change as we become more like Christ. When we receive Christ by faith, we begin an immediate personal relationship with God. The Holy Spirit works in us to help us become like Christ. The Spirit unites the Christian community in Christ. The Holy Spirit can be experienced by all and works through all.

Leader: Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters. From your breath all creation drew life. Without you, life turns to dust.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration the prophets spoke and acted in faith. You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit of power, you came as fire to Jesus' disciples; you gave them voice before the rulers of this world.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit, sanctifier, you created us children of God; you make us the living temple of your presence; you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Holy Spirit, giver of life, you guide and make holy the church you created; you give gifts---the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety, the spirit of the fear of the Lord that the whole creation may become what you want it to be.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit! Send your Spirit into our lives. Loosen our tongues to show your praise. Only in your Spirit can we voice your words of peace and acclaim Jesus as Lord**

**Hymn of Praise:** *(a prayer before singing this hymn):* HOLY HOLY HOLY is the continual cry of those who dwell in your presence. It is their response to your magnificent glory, an eternal interplay of worship and revelation. Worship will never end, because your glory is inexhaustible, O God, and eternity will be an endless discovery of who you are---the ultimate source of all that is right and good. I join my voice today to this angelic song and cry "Holy, holy, holy" for you alone are holy!

**Vs1**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Vs2**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee.  
Which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Vs3**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful flesh thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity!**

**Vs4**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Confessing Sin:** God longs for honesty and holiness within the promise-based relationship God has established with us in Christ. Regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God. Just as a marriage cannot flourish without honest confession, so our marriage-like relationship with God cannot flourish unless we freely and honestly express all facets of our life: hopes, fears, sins, desires, thanksgiving, and praise. We confess our sin in the context of the covenant Lord's love shown to us through Jesus Christ.

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith. You raise the dead to life in the Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart. Christ, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided. Lord, have mercy.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

**Assurance of Pardon** The Holy Spirit (the Essence of God) prompts our confession, animates our faith, communicates beyond words, reveals the mysteries of God to us. The Holy Spirit is the indwelling presence of God in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the "deposit" of things to come. What vast, astounding realities God is preparing for us!

Leader: It is God who has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are redeemed.

**People: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!**

**Scripture/Sermon:** Before Sunday, take time to read Colossians 3:12-17. Here is a prayer as you contemplate the meaning: *Lord Jesus, I have been crucified with you. Teach me to live my new life with you. Help me to take every thought captive to make it obedient to you, to cast aside everything that hinders and the sin that so easily*

*entangles me. Even that which has been to my profit on this earth I now consider a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing you. Take my life and make it new. Let my heart be the realm of your peace and the residence of your word. Help me to become what I already am in your eyes, clean, holy, beautiful, a reflection of your glory and grace.*

***See you in Worship this Sunday!***