

Moved as One

The Spirit Moves: Part 2 “Moved as One”

Rev. Cameron D St.Michael – June 4, 2023

Pentecost

Readings: Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32

Reflection: Psalm 8

Greeting: We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into grace in which we stand. God’s love has been poured out into our hearts, Through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Prayer: O Heavenly Father, we seek your wisdom and truth on this day. Let us join together with one voice and one heart to celebrate your presence in our lives. Help us to remember that we are one in Jesus Christ, our Lord. And may our advocate, the Holy Spirit, be a constant reminder of mercy and grace. Let us come together to celebrate your steadfast love that endures forever. May we turn to you always to help us in our daily lives, remembering the gentle guidance of the Spirit. Amen.

Reflection: Psalm 8

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8 NRSV)*

We read the words of Psalm 8 and hear of God’s glory and majesty. We celebrate that God has blessed humanity and cares for his people. How do you celebrate the care of God the Father? How do you show your thankfulness for Christ the Son in your life? Do you celebrate the Holy Spirit’s presence with you daily? How can we celebrate God with those around us? How can we lift others up in prayer? How can we work together in the Spirit to share God’s love with the world?

Prayer: Everlasting God: you have revealed yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and ever live and reign in the perfect unity of love. Grant that we may always hold firmly and joyfully to this faith. We come before you this day with both our joys and our concerns, knowing that as one you hear our prayers. Help us to experience your grace and mercy, be it in sorrow or in celebration, knowing that though you are three you are one. May we be one with you in our laughter and our tears, and may you guide us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Now let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Sermon:

Our scripture readings for today come from the New Revised Standard Version Bible. Our first reading for today comes from Matthew chapter 28 verse 16 through 20.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20 NRSV)*

Our next reading comes from Ephesians chapter 4 verse 1 through 6 and 25 through 32.

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32 NRSV)*

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

We continue this week talking about the Holy Spirit on this Trinity Sunday. Today we look at how we are moved as one in the Spirit. We see that highlighted in our readings for today. Not just that we are one but the importance of acting as one and thinking of each other as one. We begin with the call that we have from the ending of Matthew. In the gospel, Jesus

calls the eleven and tells them to go and make disciples of all the nations, to go out to all the people. This is a change from before, when they were only called to reach out to the Israelite people. Now they are called to reach out further and to make disciples of the nations by baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We get that directive that they are to go out and be as one to call others to join them in that unity. And we see it highlighted in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Paul calls on his listeners to live out that calling to baptize others by reminding them that they are united as one. And he talks about the unity of the Spirit. And we get a litany of things that are one in Paul's message. That there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all. We are reminded of that oneness when we talk about Holy Communion. We speak of being of one body, redeemed by one blood, serving one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

So, on this Trinity Sunday, we reflect on that oneness by reflecting on our own unity. And we look at it especially through the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit moves us to be one. Last week we noted that the Spirit can be difficult to define because of the many ways we view the Holy Spirit. Today we can reflect on how the Spirit can help us achieve everything that Paul asks of the Ephesians. Paul continues to talk about all the reasons that people should be kind to each other and the ways that they should help each other because of this unity, this oneness. I think it's important to think about what that oneness means to us as a community. Because that unity is an important part of our calling to follow Christ. Because it is part of what strengthens us. Not just that we are never alone because we have God the Father, Christ the Son, and the presence of the Holy Spirit with us always, but also because we support each other. We support each other in the Spirit and by the Spirit strengthen one another. And part of that is in the way that we treat each other. Paul talks about how we unite in the Spirit. We put away falsehoods. When we address our neighbors, we address them truthfully because we are members of each other. He goes through some different ways to give up doing wrong in order to do right. And I do think it's important to recognize what Paul is saying here because he's talking about ways to repent and reform. It's not just about those people who need to change but about supporting them so they can change. When Paul talks about those who steal giving up stealing, he says they should work so that they have something to share with the needy. But the only way they can work is if somebody is willing to hire them and give them the chance to turn their life around. And we again find that our unity comes into play. Because then we open up ourselves to help others to change. Instead of letting evil or careless talk flow from our mouths, we speak what we need to speak to build others up as there is need. This way others are built up in the grace of our speech so that, by the Holy Spirit, we lift each other up in love.

Paul ends with a rather important line here. "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Paul says we need to let all our negative feelings be cast aside so that we can let go of the things that drag us down. He even says what to replace them with, by replacing them with kindness and love. A Spirit of

grace and mercy should be found in God's people. And so, when I read Paul's words, it makes me think of the ways that we can change ourselves to help others to change because we are united. It also means that we do it because it helps us help others. We help others because it helps us to be joined in the Spirit to better do God's work for all people. This can be a difficult thing for us to approach because it very much means that we rely on community. It means we have to be willing to rely on others because we can't do everything ourselves. And not just that. Our experiences help us so that we grow together in God's love by supporting each other in the Spirit. Because we are then accountable to one another.

And that accountability can throw us off. We aren't always used to dealing with each other with gentleness, with patience, and with love. Sometimes we struggled to be humble in those things. And it helps to have others there to remind us. But it also means that we need others there to remind us with gentleness, humility, and patience so that we all grow together in that bond of peace. I think it's important for us because that unity as a community of God means that we are a community of hope. We have been called by Christ to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are called to love one another in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And we call upon the Spirit to guide us and lead us in our daily lives to help us to be kind to one another. That we call on the Spirit to help us to let go of anger, to let go of bitterness, and to let go of unkind words. That we find the strength, and I do mean the strength, to be kind and to care. Because it takes strength to love because loving means that we have to be willing to forgive. But part of that also means that we have to be willing to correct others in love. And it also means we have to be willing to protect others in love. Because part of that unity that we experience is caring for others because we have to be able to love people to call people. And to love them we must stand up for them. That when Paul talks about having something to help the needy it's because Paul is constantly looking for ways that we may change so that we may help those in need. And it's important for us to do that because for many the first experience they may have of the Holy Spirit is through the kindness and love that you may show them. The first time they experience the presence of God may be because of your gentleness in sharing the Spirit.

So, we have to ask ourselves if we are united in love so that we may invite others in love? Or do we allow our humility to fail so we hide God's love from those in need? To that I say we must unite ourselves in love and in care to stand up for the least and the last and invite them in. We must let them know that they are loved, cared for, and looked after. We do so to let them know that God is there for them because God is there for us and God is there for all together. That we let the Holy Spirit move us so that we may call others to celebrate the love of God the Father, as we celebrate the forgiveness we find in Christ the Son, all because we are moved in the Holy Spirit. So let us join together that we may correct each other with a Spirit of gentleness. That we may build each other up with a kind word so that we are built up by the Spirit. That we may lift each other up so that we may help one another so that we may extend a hand of kindness to the world. Let us show one another love so that we may love all those

around us. May we help others to experience the love of the Father by showing the care of Christ the Son to all those in need. And may we be united together, moved by the Holy Spirit so that we may all know love and may all know peace together. Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Pardon: God, you are with us even when we turn away from you. Guide us back into your loving arms. Judge us not by the perfection of our actions but show us mercy and love. We have strayed like lost sheep from your ways, failing both in what we have done and what we have failed to do. Bring us back into your fold that you may guide us and lead us in all things. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us. May we walk in your love and trust your ways. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you. May the Lord forgive all your sins and lift you up in love through Jesus Christ our Lord, and by the Holy Spirit keep you in life eternal. Amen.

Offering: If you are so moved to make an offering, you may send it to the church treasurer, or you may send it to the PO Box listed below. We are still the church, and the church still needs your support to keep doing all the important work that we do.

Lord's Prayer

Dismissal with Blessing: May we go forth reflecting God's love in our lives as we go forth in the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Current Series – The Spirit Moves

Our current series looks at how we are moved by the Holy Spirit. In it, we will explore how we are united in love through the Spirit and the many different ways that the Spirit moves within us.

May 28th – *Moved to Call* – Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23

June 4th – *Moved as One* – Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32

June 18th – *Moved with Gifts* – 1 Corinthians 12:4-13; Acts 19:1-7

Prayer List

Rev Charliam Renner	Bishop Frank Beard	Our Conference	Our Healthcare Workers
Patti Corder and the Greenup Ambulance Crew		Our Healthcare Workers	Eric Veach
Ed & Verna Titus	Henry Catey	Jake Kiser	Cindy Cisney
Tricia Adkins	Don Stewart	Ronnie Winstead	Lauren Stewart
Tom Finley	Laura Carlen	Rosie Chancellor	Chuck Hogan
Brittany Gilbert	Phil Hawickhorst	Ray Carr	Jane Williams
Alice Sherwood	Richard Durham	Kathy Hanks	Steve Carlen
Emily Blade	Tim Schnauz	Donna Carlen	Ernie Peters
Jess Shoot	Stanley Kiser	Corine Howard	Don Gilmore
Shirley Jester	Connie Brown	Don Blade	Marsha Overton
Darin Pease	Linda Carlen	Michael Nichols	Paul Cox
Taylor Waldorf	Harriet Tucker	Becky McGuiness	Joyce Sly
Sharla Tucker	Carson White	Dave Green	
Gary & Mary Winterrowd	Leo Smith	Sue & Bob Smyser	Larry Thompson
Evelyn Sue Icenogle	Greg Williams	Martha Roberts	Charlie & Charlotte Baxter
Paul Schulte	Lavon Figgins	Kara Newton	

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