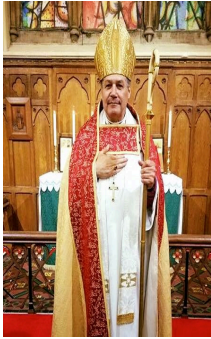




THE PRIMATE'S PENTECOST MESSAGE ARCHBISHOP SHANE B. JANZEN



"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and in the fellowship, and in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers." Acts 2: 42.

WHITSUNDAY – The Day of Pentecost reminds us all of the origins of the Christian Church, and calls all Christians to the foundation of the Church and her mission in the world. It is a call to unity; it is a call to continuity; it is a call to steadfastness; it is a call to Word and Sacrament; and it is a call to fellowship and prayer. Christ our Savior promised His Church the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, Who would lead the Church into all truth, and remind us of all He had said and done for the salvation of the world.

The unity of the Christian Church has always been somewhat elusive. Even from the beginning we read in Holy Scripture of divisions, disagreements, and doctrinal controversies. Through the centuries these divisions and disagreements became more frequent, more damaging to the Church, leading to heresy and schism. The Church of our own time is not much better. The alphabet soup that has become the Continuing Anglican Church around the world is both a scandal to the faith and a wound to the witness of the Church in an ever-growing secular and godless society. The Christian Church no longer speaks with one voice or one Gospel. Each of us as Christians, as traditional Anglicans, as leaders in the Church, must take our part, our responsibility, in this state of affairs; and, more importantly, do our part in healing divisions across the many jurisdictions and doctrinal divides of Anglicanism. Happily such healing is beginning to take place, divisions are being addressed, fellowship and unity are being pursued. The Traditional Anglican Communion worldwide has an important and critical part to play in this godly endeavour. Pentecost is the time to remind ourselves of this important mission. Our outreach to our separated brethren, whether in the United Kingdom or the United States, in Canada or Australia, Southern Africa or India, needs our time and attention. And it needs our prayer and commitment. Beyond the Continuing Anglican Church we look to establish fellowship and ecumenical dialogue with the Nordic Catholic Church, the Polish National Catholic Church, and the Free Church of England. This same ecumenical outreach may even extend in time toward our brethren in the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Though human sin, human pride, and the weight of history may make this mission and calling seem daunting at times, it is all the more reason to press on with faith in the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome our past and to look toward the future – even in a world facing tremendous challenges from secularization, militant atheism, and the threat of fanatical Islamic extremists.

From the upper room at Pentecost, the Apostles and disciples went out into the pagan world to preach the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. With Word and Sacrament, prayer and devotion, courage and fortitude, these men and women fulfilled the Great Commission of Christ to make disciples of all nations, baptizing, confirming, and teaching the commandments of God. That Commission is ours today; their courage and devotion is our model. We cannot simply look back to some past Anglican 'glory days', or seek only those of 'like mind' but rather we need to go out into our neighbourhoods, our marketplaces, our public squares, and witness to the faith of Christ crucified and risen – calling unbelievers to belief, sinners to penitence, falsehood to truth, hatred to love, divisions to unity, and the nations to Christ.

In the midst of our modern world, living as we do in the post-Christian era, we pray the Holy Spirit to continue among us, to sanctify His holy Church across the Traditional Anglican Communion, and throughout the Church universal, that as Christian men and women we may be renewed in our faith and continue constant in our witness to the Christian Faith, in season and out of season. May God the Holy Spirit bless and strengthen you all in this holy Season of Pentecost.

+Shane