



## Looking Out My Window, May 13, 2024

Episcopal priest, the late Sam Shoemaker once quipped, "The real 'lunatic fringe' in this hour may not be the people we call the 'crackpots,' but it may be all of us who, though in the churches, are out of the Spirit."<sup>\*</sup>

We Episcopalians invest considerable conversation around those Christians who seem to us maniacal or lunatic-like in their beliefs and actions.

Shoemaker's words have a sobering effect. What do we miss by endeavoring to avoid the excesses of others? Could we be missing the Holy Spirit's energizing activity?

This Sunday, May 19th., we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the beginning of the liturgical season of Pentecost, which stretches from Pentecost Sunday until Advent (this year, Sunday, December 1st.). Red will be the color of the day—consider wearing something red Sunday. I will wear my red clergy shirt with French cuffs.

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate and live into the realities of the birth of the church with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as related in Acts 2. (See John 21 for another version of Jesus' giving of the Spirit.) In the first half of the church year, with the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter, we recall and reenact the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this season of Pentecost, from now till Advent, we focus on Christian living and our share in God's ongoing mission in the world.

Our calling is to join in God's mission and to give ourselves to worship, evangelism, healing, service, and justice. To live with even a portion of the courage, resolve, and creativity of the earliest believers requires the Holy Spirit's activity in, through, and among us.

Do we dare leave the lunatic fringe and be "normal" persons of faith, energized, led, and emboldened by God's Spirit? Are we dare more fully participant in what God is up to all around us? The prayer of Baptist theologian, the late Clark Pinnock, could be ours. "Welcome Holy Spirit, come and set us free! Let each one catch the living flame and be ravished by your love! Let our souls glow with your fire. Help us overcome our forgetfulness of Spirit." +

God's peace,

David

David W. Perkins, Interim Rector

<sup>\*</sup>Sam Shoemaker, *With the Holy Spirit and with Fire*, cited by Peter C. Moore, "I Believe in the Holy Spirit," *Seed and Harvest* (May/June 1998), p. 3.

+Clark H. Pinnock, *Flame of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit* (Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996), p. 9.