

All together - All filled - All will be saved

Themes:- Unity, Diversity and Salvation

Context - Luke wants to present to us one of the most important incidents since the departure of Jesus.

Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. Remember Jesus first gave his disciples the Holy Spirit and here on the birthday of the church the Holy Spirit descends in power. It manifests itself in fire, wind and speaking in tongues. **Wind not unlike what we saw or experienced on the beach yesterday. Powerful!** The Holy Spirit is the comforter, the life giver. There can be no life without the life giver, no understanding without the spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the spirit. And no Christ likeness of character apart from his fruit and no effective witness without the power of his Holy Spirit. As John Stott has put it *“a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Holy Spirit is dead.”* The Holy Spirit made the disciples brave and can help each one of us too. It guides and comforts us today just as it did Jesus’ followers.

In Acts chapter 2 we see Luke’s description of Pentecost itself followed by Peter’s explanation and address to the crowd. In it we see the themes of unity, a coming together, diversity in different peoples gathering and yet knowing their own language, as well as salvation. Firstly unity. They were...

All together v. **When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...**

All 120 Christians were in one place, like we are gathered here today....

There was a sense of Unity in the gathering, they were all together.

Not unlike what we have seen on our TV screens during the past week, with World leaders gathering to commemorate and remember the D-Day landings that started on the Normandy beaches on Wednesday 6th June 1944. In what some papers have described in their headlines as the *day that changed the world*. And it is good to remember, like we do in November on Remembrance Sunday every year to reflect on all they did for us, the peace and freedom and hope they won for us. But the effects of Pentecost are longer lasting, with some 1/3rd of the world’s population being Christians today.

It is in some respects a miracle that even in these what can be tumultuous times, when sometimes we see a world where there is so much division, there is still a sense of respect for those who have gone before us, for the resilient generation, as the Queen described those who gave their lives, for our collective freedom. World leaders gathered, to show unity, their respect, and reverence, as well as to reflect on the events of the past.

But As the Pope has said in the past, "what we share in Christ is greater than what continues to divide us".

So we see the believers are **all are together** in Unity and then

All filled

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

God's spirit has been poured out upon a lot of people all at once.

The Holy Spirit manifests itself in many different ways, in today's passage it was through wind, fire and speaking in tongues. For some people it is the experience of getting hot, when being prayed for. We each experience it in different ways because we are all different. I have spoken about speaking in tongues before, so will not this morning.

God loves our diversity, he did not make us all the same. This gathering of an international, multilingual crowd, is a demonstration of that diversity. It is similar to when we have baptisms, with folk from other countries, as we did a few weeks ago. God loves everyone and welcomes diversity.

Through His Holy Spirit ...he inspires us to do things we would not normally do ...to pray for people, to reach out to people we might find difficult, to be more loving, to read and understand His Word. The Holy Spirit inspires us and gives us courage **like it did for the 95 year old Harry Read, as he parachuted in tandem back in France, a retired Salvation army officer, from Bournemouth who when about to jump out of an aircraft, prayed and then sensed God saying "go for it Harry!"** God inspires us, as a family, to do things we would not normally do by His Holy Spirit.

For half term as some of you know we went to Norfolk and took part in the National Pilgrimage walk around Little Walsingham. Now don't worry I haven't converted to becoming a Roman Catholic but there was a real sense of unity, as

we walked around the village of Walsingham, with my mainly agnostic father, my roman catholic step-mother and family, alongside others singing songs, we loved it, and saying the Hail Mary, at least I now know what it is! ... as we prayed the Lord's prayer together, as we witnessed in the streets, we were filled with joy and celebration, even amidst the odd spot of rain, and our more conservative evangelical friends protesting in the background saying "no popery or reverence of Mary." But for me, I found it both amusing and wonderful, seeing both sides of the Christian spectrum of faith.

You see the work of God is wonderfully inclusive, as there is not category of person left out, regardless of which spectrum or denomination or Christian faith or background you come from, regardless of sex, age, intelligence, background or social class. **God loves us** and wants us to know him through His spirit. God loves us each one of us deeply, we are treasured in His eyes and precious. So we **all are together, all filled** with the Holy Spirit but finally and most importantly v.21 "**everyone who called on the name of the Lord will be saved**"

All will be saved

Salvation – Being saved – doesn't just mean "*going to heaven when we die*", it also means knowing God's rescuing power now. The power revealed in Jesus, to his disciples, continues today through the Holy Spirit. That power of salvation, **being saved** is a present reality as well as a future hope.

I am a born again Christian, renewed through His Spirit, I am saved through the blood of Jesus. Am I perfect, no far from it but I am saved.

I am sure many of you will know that on the maiden voyage of the Titanic from Southampton to New York in April 1912, the Titanic, the largest passenger steamship in the world and considered by many to be unsinkable, struck an iceberg and sank in the icy Atlantic. But did you know that following the disaster the scene outside the White Star Line office in Liverpool was one of anxiety and grief, as friends and relatives of those on board the ill-fated Vessel thronged the building. In the days before instant global communication information about survivors travelled much slower. On both sides of the main entrance notices were posted. One said "KNOWN TO BE SAVED"; the other side said "KNOWN TO BE LOST". From time to time a company official walked out with a piece of paper, which contained the name of another passenger. When

he held it up, a deathly stillness swept over the crowd as loved ones of the missing waited to see which side he would write the name on.

The day Jesus was crucified God looked down from Heaven and wrote "KNOWN TO BE SAVED" on the cross and the message of the cross hasn't changed.

You don't have to know too much about Christianity or the Church, or God's Word, in fact when most people when they first come to Christ they don't know a lot about the Bible. I know after I first committed my life again to Christ back in 1998 I didn't even read the Bible at first. It took me at least six months to buy one. All I knew was my life was a bit of a mess and that I needed a Saviour and that God loved me.

All you have to do to be saved and receive eternal life, is repent of your sins and put your trust in Jesus.

But it is a decision you have to make on your own.

I can't make it for you

Your family can't make it for you, my father won't get into heaven just because his son is a Vicar.

Neither can friends by association.

The Holy Spirit convicts and converts each one of us. That is what I've been praying for me X5 friends during the Thy Kingdom Come initiative, in the past 11 days.

God can do whatever, God wants to do and it isn't up to us to set boundaries to the ways in which he can, and does reach out, whether that be to an individual or group of people we might have difficulty with ... that's exciting isn't it?

If you have prayed for someone during the THY KINGDOM COME initiative, can I encourage you to keep praying, if the individuals have not yet come to know Jesus?

As Archbishop Justin Welby writes in the United Christian Broadcasters - Word for today "*I came to a living faith in Christ at University through the encouragement and prayers of my peers but what I learned later was that I had also been prayed for, every week, for 18 years by a close family friend ...*

Never underestimate the power of prayer...

Who have you prayed for?

Continue to do so.

Don't give up!

If you are a God-parent pray for your godchild

If you are a grand-parent, pray for your grand-children

If you are here on your own but married pray for your spouse

If you are married pray for those who are single

If you are a friend who is single pray for those who are married

What do you need prayer for? Prayer ministry at the end of the service by the font.

Anyone who knows the need to be rescued, whatever from, can call on the Lord and discover how it can happen... [everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved](#)

So let's pray ...

Come Holy Spirit

Fruits of the Spirit are ...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control ... let us all be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Does that mean you will always exhibit those qualities, no...but we need to ask to be constantly filled again with the Spirit...because it leaks out of us...

For v.21 "[everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved](#)"

So if you have never said the salvation prayer, please join with me in saying:-

Sorry ...for the mistakes I have made

Thank you, Lord Jesus that you died on the cross for my sins

Please fill me with your Spirit

AMEN.