

Easter has come and gone, now what? Part II

Pastor Gus Barnes

The Alleluias have returned, Easter Breakfast was divine, Pastor looked like the Sun in his new Chasuble, so now what?

After the resurrection - Jesus returned and visited the disciples and others to give the message that he returned as he had promised. To many, it was as if they saw a ghost. Doubting Thomas needed the necessary proof. Not only was he able to place his hands in the places where Jesus was pierced, but when he appeared to Thomas Jesus asked if there was something to eat.

Forty days after the resurrection Jesus taught many about his resurrection as he instructed his disciples to begin to teach new disciples to go and share good news to those who were willing to listen. Jesus then prepares his disciples for his own return to the Father.

11 of the 12 disciples witnessed Jesus ascending to the clouds. Sadly, by the time of this event, Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, grief-stricken by his actions, hung himself. Jesus indeed had conquered death and the grave, and now dwells with the Father, and is no longer limited to earth.

The day of Pentecost - Pentecost is the Greek word for the number fifty. The day commemorates the day the Holy Spirit breathed on all, to empower to create disciples of all nations. The Sunday we celebrate Pentecost (May 19, 2024), you are encouraged to wear the color red. The symbols for this day are quite remarkable-they are:

- Fire - The Holy Spirit that filled the disciples and the hearts of others now replacing fear with courage.
- The Holy Spirit - That came in with the zeal of those who opened their hearts and minds.
- Water - New Life in the remembrance of our baptism and our renewed lives.
- The Dove - The Dove descended down to earth as a symbol of peace to all.

The Pentecost message for us then and now, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, is people of every nation and of every tongue came together on behalf of Jesus Christ, as they should now days.

After Pentecost, we celebrate the following weeks into what is called Ordinary time, a time that is not so ordinary. This season follows for about 33-34 weeks or 6 months. Ordinary time creates a pattern of time passing. The mystery of Christ unfolding before us. The color for this season is green to symbolize life and hope, along with two fish and a basket of bread, that reminds us of Jesus' feeding the five thousand with loaf and fishes.

Thanksgiving and Christ the King will fall towards the end of our liturgical calendar, First Communion instruction at the end of September. Confirmation at the end of October, and our Ecumenical Service at the Methodist Church in Belmont, as we prepare our hearts and minds for Advent to prepare us for the new liturgical year.

In the meanwhile, stay alert and keep awake-Blessings to you all.