

A Most Happy and Blessed Pentecost, Y'all!
Delivered 06/05/2022 (Pentecost) at St. Paul's, Elk Rapids

A most happy and blessed Pentecost, y'all! We made it. The fifty day Easter feast is over. We have been strengthened, we have been refreshed and renewed, we have drunk deeply of our Tradition. We have heard again the post-Resurrection accounts and how the early Church was formed. And so we are ready for a new season. And it is so very good to be here with you in this new season! It has been a lot of work to get to here and the time has finally arrived. And we have much work to do. This long season after Pentecost is one of deepening our faith, of growing, of working, of doing all that God has given us to do. And the work we have to do is Pentecost work!

Pentecost work is that which breaks down divisions and overcomes barriers. It brings people together; it speaks the universal message of love. It asks the hard questions like, why is our area of the State less racially diverse than most other places and what are we doing to end racism in this place? It acknowledges that small towns have traditionally been the least friendly places for LGBTQ+ folks and asks what we are doing in this place to make sure that people of all sexual orientations are welcome to enjoy the natural beauty that we cherish here. It's June, so happy Pride Month, y'all! Pentecost work continues to support the Power Book Bag program because every child deserves to not only learn to read but to learn to enjoy reading; and, it also asks the hard questions about how we are complicit with the systems of poverty that hold people down, that keep kids from having access to books, that keeps people homeless and hungry in this land of abundance. We are a Pentecost people and this is our Pentecost work! We must be a people that serves our town, our region, and the whole World.

In just a few moments, we are going to renew our Baptismal Covenant. In those promises, we commit to being a Pentecost people. We commit again to doing the work that God has given us to do. Let us live into those promises. Let us go forward with the strength we have gained from the previous season and boldly go into this new season in hope, and love. Let us dream dreams and see visions. Let us prophecy and tell of the world that could be, the world God has dreamed for. Let us change the world around us by bringing people together and doing God's work in this place. We are a Pentecost people and we have much work to do and we are going to do it together! A most blessed and happy Pentecost, y'all!

~The Rev. Dr. Derek J. Quinn, Deacon