

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

*Bethlehem was God with us; Calvary was God for us;
Pentecost is God in us. —Anon.*

People have birthdays. We know that. But institutions, nations and even ideas can have birthdays as well.

The birthday of the United States of America is July 4, 1776. The People's Republic of China celebrates its birthday on October 1. The present-day country was born on that date in 1949. Harvard University was born in 1636. The University of Pennsylvania was born in 1740. The birth of the Civil Rights Movement is widely believed to be December 1, 1955, when Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, was arrested when she refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama. The birthday of western philosophy is thought to be the birth of the Greek philosopher Thales in 624 B.C.

Today, Christians around the world celebrate the birthday of the Church. Why? Because today is Pentecost Sunday, and on this day in A.D. 30, give or take, the apostles began to carry the message of Christ to the whole world. This happened immediately after the Holy Spirit was poured out on 120 disciples who had met for prayer in an upper room in Jerusalem.

It was a spectacular event! Flames of fire appeared over the heads of the disciples. When they appeared in the streets later, Peter began to preach, and everyone heard him speaking in his own language. People from all over the world were in the city to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

The sermon was powerful! And the results were impressive. Thousands believed in the new gospel about which Peter preached. And these converts then took their newfound faith back to their home countries.

The faith was proclaimed first in Jerusalem, then Samaria, and then to the uttermost parts of the world!

Had this not happened, we would know nothing of God's plan of salvation or of the cradle, the cross and the crown. We would know nothing of God's love and compassionate forgiveness. We would know nothing about the resurrection. We would be, as the apostle Paul puts it, "of all men most miserable."

So today we rejoice in the birthday of the church, and the coming of the Holy Spirit!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, thank you for sending as promised the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth and mediate your presence to us every day. Thank you for the church and for how it has blessed millions over the centuries and millennia of its existence. May it continue to grow in knowledge, wisdom and love! Amen.

*Pentecost Blessings!
Happy Birthday to the Christian Church!
Lead Pastor Ben Atotz*

Week of June 5, 2022



Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday: John 7-10
- Monday: 2 Kings 11-14:20
- Tuesday: Joel 1-3
- Wednesday: 2 Kings 14:21-25; Jonah 1-4
- Thursday: 2 Kings 14:26-29; Amos 1-3
- Friday: Amos 4-6
- Saturday: Psalms 58-60

Verse to Remember

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." —John 11:25-26

BIBLE ALPHABET CHALLENGE

Can you come up with the name of a person, place or thing found in the Bible for each letter of the alphabet?
Answers below.

A Abraham	B
C	D
E	F
G	H
I	J
K	L
M	N
O	P
Q	R
S	T
U	V
W	X
Y	Z



ANSWERS: There are many possible answers, but here is one list:
 A=Abraham
 B=Bethlehem
 C=Corinth
 D=Dorcas
 E=Esther
 F=Faith
 G=Goliath
 H=Hannah
 I=Isaac
 J=Jesse
 K=Kingdom
 L=Lazarus
 M=Mary
 N=Naomi
 O=Obadiah
 P=Peter
 Q=Quail
 R=Rainbow
 S=Sarah
 T=Timothy
 U=Uzziah
 V=Vashiti
 W=Wilderness
 X=Xerxes
 Y=Yoke
 Z=Zerubbabel

June 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		