

# The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity welcomes you!

PENTECOST SUNDAY. MAY 19, 2024

## A Reading from the *Go-Between God*

By John V. Taylor

The Church exists by mission as fire exists by burning. It is not by chance that Emil Brunner chose that great biblical metaphor of the Spirit and his mission. Jewish teachers had taken the burning bush to be a symbol of the ideal Israel with God's purpose and action in the world, yet unconsumed. The true Church also exists by being the inexhaustible fuel of the Holy Spirit's mission in the world. While they burn together the branches and twigs are the fire, yet they do not in themselves constitute the fire. The fire, rather, contains them, living around them in the interstices, and if a twig drops to the ground the fire that seemed to be in it soon vanishes. Only in their togetherness can Christians remain alight with the fire of the Spirit. That is the sole purpose of our visible fellowship—to be the fuel upon which the fire is kindled in the earth. The Church must be shaped to carry out that purpose or it will be as frustrating as a badly laid fire. The question we have continually to put to the organization and structure of the Church is this: does it bring Christian face to face with Christian is that communion which is the sphere of the Holy Spirit's presence?

Our theology would improve if we thought more of the Church being given to the Spirit than of the Spirit being given to the Church. For if we phrase it in the second way, although it is the New Testament way, we are in danger of perpetuating the irreverence of picturing God's Spirit as a grant of superhuman power or guidance, like a fairy sword or magic mirror to equip us for our adventures. The promised power from on high is not of that kind at all. The primary effect of the Pentecostal experience was to fuse the individuals of that company into a fellowship which in the same moment was caught up into the life of the risen Lord. In a new awareness of him and of one another they burst into praise, and the world came running for an explanation. In other words, the gift of the Holy Spirit in the fellowship of the Church first enables Christians to be, and only as a consequence of that sends them to do and to speak. The Holy Spirit is given to enable 'the two or three gathered together' to embody Jesus Christ in the world.

[Source: Celebrating the Seasons]

## SAINTS:

**Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 21 May.** The Empress Helena only achieved power in the Roman Empire when her son Constantine became Emperor, in the year 306. Although she had previously been abandoned by her husband, her son raised her to a position of great honour. As Helena was a Christian she gave her support to their cause and, in the year 326, she made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There she provided the wherewithal to found the building of a basilica on the Mount of Olives and another at Bethlehem. According to a much later tradition, she discovered the cross on which Christ was crucified. In the Eastern Church, she is commemorated on this day, together with her son Constantine.

**The Venerable Bede, 25 May.** Bede was born in Northumbria around the year 670. When he was seven years old, his family gave him to the monastery of St Peter and St Paul at Wearmouth. He then moved to Jarrow, where he lived as a monk for the rest of his life. Although it seems he never travelled further than York, his monastery -- first under Abbot Benet Biscop and then Abbot Ceolfrith -- was a centre of learning, and Bede studied extensively. He used all the resources available to write the most complete history of Christian England up to the year 729, as well as commentaries on books of the Bible. He was renowned for his monastic fidelity and his love of teaching, and was fondly remembered by his pupils, including his biographer. He died peacefully in 735.

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## MAY:

- May 25, Saturday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- **May 26, TRINITY SUNDAY, JOINT SERVICE, 8:30a.m.** Potluck follows.  
2:00p.m., Wedding.
- May 30, Thursday, 3:00p.m., Healing mass.

## JUNE:

- June 2, Sunday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 9, Sunday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- June 10, Monday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 12, Wednesday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- June 15, Saturday, 2:30p.m., Wedding
- June 16, Sunday, 11:00a.m., Vestry mtg.
- June 16, Sunday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 19, Wednesday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 22, Saturday,  
2:00p.m. ECW Gen. membership meeting  
3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 27, Thursday, 3:00p.m., Healing mass.