

Pentecost and First Church Service

Acts 2:1-21, John 7:37-39 [MW20-21]

Led by Rev Wayne Thornton at Mangawhai and Wellsford, Sunday 31 May 2020

Church is us

- those who are gathered here in this building
- those who are gathered through our “livestream” connection
- those who have a connection to us because of the faith we share
- together we are connected by the Holy Spirit
- whose coming in a new way we celebrate today
- we are the church

Pentecost is sometimes thought of as the beginning of “the Church”

- the beginning of God being active in the world in a new way
- perhaps even 'the birthday of the church'
- today we give thanks for and celebrate all of that
- and it seems particularly appropriate that after not being able to gather for so long
- we are here together on the Day of Pentecost

The followers of Jesus had been hidden away

- Jesus had been raised from the dead and gone back to his Father in heaven
- yet his followers are still behind closed doors
- (perhaps in their own kind of 'lockdown?')
- the coming of the Holy Spirit in a new way changed all that
- for good and for ever
- and we are part of this

So I thought it would be good to think about a couple of things

- and if you would like to, to share your thoughts

I have three questions for reflection [PP Slides]

- the first is:
What have we missed about church (as we knew it) in this time?
[time to consider and share]

- What have we valued about how we have been doing things in this time?
[time to consider and share]

- What would we like to continue doing going forward?
[time to consider and share]

The simple act of coming to church on a Sunday

- is something I hope never to take for granted again
- I am taking steps to help make sure I don't
- because it is a privilege, a responsibility and a pleasure

Conclude this time with a prayer