



Grain

²⁶When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. John 15:26-27

Field

²When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-4

Thoughts

In our Pentecost story, the Holy Spirit is a powerful wind taking down silos people created around cultures and languages. The Spirit's disruptive message about unity, in which individuals in the crowd could understand one another, came out of the same conflicted Holy Land that is in the news today. Ruling governments and forms of domination shift through the centuries. We wonder when the most current cycles of suffering will end.

It is heartening to witness increased numbers of individuals and groups lifting their voices about injustices committed against Palestinian people. How invisible some forms of oppression can be to those of us not experiencing it. The Israeli government's targeting of Palestinians has gone on practically unacknowledged by our own country for how many years? Familiar misplaced accusations about anti-Semitism against those who lift their voices for innocent people murdered echo. Several Israeli citizens are still waiting for their family members to be returned, and many grieve over loved ones murdered by Hamas, who have also put other Palestinians at greater risk. The Israeli government's massive response continues to destroy the lives of innocent people. Actual anti-Semitic attacks have been on the rise in the U.S. Injustices throughout history tempt us to build permanent silos, blurring our vision and understanding of how to love in the present.

The birth of the church was about experiencing life as it was through the lens of God's love. In all oppressive situations, we may find hope in the allies from all sides in our callings to let go of idolatrous silos. As Christians, we find hope in the movement of the Holy Spirit leading us beyond those barriers to have a public voice. May the celebration of Pentecost return us to a vision of love in community as a church and extend belonging beyond ourselves and religions. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy