Traditionallyon **Pentecost** we display colors of red, orange and yellow to represent the Holy Spirit’s fire as it descended upon the disciples two thousand years ago.

 It is our way to relive the scene of flames settling upon the disciples’ tongues causing them to speak in different languages...so that each tribe could understand the gospel.

And who is to say that didn’t happen, or that there haven’t been times, since, when the Holy Spirit gave the gift of words so that God could be heard in the right time and place.

I am convinced the Spirit has given me words...from time to time... in English...when the situation called for more than I had to offer.

In order that a person or persons might better understand... it was as if the spirit placed the words upon my tongue.

Who are we to say what the power of God can or cannot do?

I believe the significance of that electrifying day... that first **Pentecost Sunday** ...however, is more about the unification of the people.

L.P. Jones comments, “Jews and Greeks, city dwellers and country folk, women and men, slave and free, educated and illiterate [all] joined together (New Proclamation p62-64).

**Pentecost** is a reminder that God is always in the mix. That there is more to life than spouting differences of opinion, and criticizing one another.

If only we could be united in society, our homes, work, school and in our churches.

Perhaps there always will be division and conflict regarding beliefs and tradition.

But as Jones puts it, “The homeless, hungry and hurting couldn’t care less about doctrine and dogma.

I am pretty sure they care more about love, peace, joy, hope, and kindness. They want to learn to be patient amid their struggles and temptations; they want to experience gentleness. They want the fruits *of* the Spirit.

And God promises to fill our lives with all of that!

It is what the Prophet Ezekiel did in the valley of bones. He believed “God *could* restore life in any situation”

And so, like Ezekiel, we are called to offer nourishment and growth to those starving for God’s love.

We are called to share the fruits of the spirit with one another and to have faith that God will, show up...and with a single breath, fill us up!

**We** are a conduit for His fiery love... as flames of fire settle upon our tongues, hearts and minds.

John tells us in his gospel to **accept** this Spirit – let it be our guide.

 (Preacher.org by Judith Jones).

“When the Spirit of truth comes,” Jesus says, “*he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”*

The Spirit takes from Jesus all that God gave to Him and gives it to you and me...that is amazing! ...also intimidating and almost unbelievable...

*We* **are** filled...though... with that same fire **from the spirit!!!**

We have it here **inside of us!!!**

We **will** change their view, their hearts *and* their future!!!

When **we** proclaim God’s Word, **we** will offer hope, joy and peace – it matters not who **we** are or where **we** come from; the Spirit works with whatever we have to offer.

We are simply the vessel -Sent to do God’s work.

And if ever there were a time, to put Jesus in the streets it is now!

The weekend proved to be such a time as a buffet of emotions was served up... a contrast of hate and love , sorrow and joy, fear and peace.

While watching the Royal Wedding yesterday the latest school shooting at Sante Fe Texas invaded our hearts.

As we tried to slip into a quiet place to witness the celebration of a prince and princess in real life,

 we were heavy with sadness, disbelief, and frustration. Remembering the tragedies that came before...wounds were reopened.

But we cannot let hate and fear creep in. We need the Spirit to fill us with words of “Love God with all your heart, soul and mind, love one another and then, if you can, love yourself.

...that is how Episcopalian Bishop Curry put it yesterday in his message to the Royal Couple.

He was dynamic yet down to earth – he was excited to share the gospel... the simple but overpowering message of love.

He recalled the words,

There is a Balm in Gilead; Where the wounded are made whole
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

And when we feel discouraged and think our work's in vain, the Holy Spirit revives our souls again.

The Holy Spirit revives our souls again!!!

The spirit revives our souls again and again…every single day.

Though this momentous wedding was more like a fairy tale come to life...there is an abundance of love stories to be told. And I think that is what appealed to me most.

It conjured up familiar warmth, goodness, peace, and gentleness as two people shared a moment of happiness midst a messy world. For a few minutes we were all “in” the happily ever after.

Merely, a glimpse of what God has to offer through the work of Holy Spirit.

We cannot find true joy and love unless we **receive it from God**.

The Lyrics by Ryan Stevenson...come to mind.

“In a world that's left us cold, can we get back to the altar?
...Back to the arms of our first love.

...In a world, where our hearts are breaking
And we're lost in the mess we've made
Like a blinding light, in the dead of night
It's the Gospel ---The Gospel that makes a way.

It's the cure for our condition, It's the good news for us all
It's greater than religion, It's the power of the Cross!

music

Though there are no words to describe this powerful action of God...filling our very souls with His divine presence... we should not doubt it.

For the gospel always makes a way. ***Jesus*** is the Way...He came from the Father, who gave it to the Holy Spirit...who gives it to us!

In the Greek Holy Spirit means “to come alongside; To guide; to accompany.”

Ironically that is the same word used by Meghan Markle when she asked Prince Charles to accompany her. Not walk her down the aisle or give her away, but accompany her.

The image of the soon to be father in law accompanying the new bride was like saying we accept you in to our family.

We are already accepted into God’s family.

And we are accompanied by God’s Spirit throughout our entire lives!

God promises to walk along side us.

**Pentecost Sunday** is *just* the beginning. With 33 weeks of ordinary time ahead of us...we are forced to find ways to hold on to the beauty and sanctity of *this* one momentous day.

Just as we’d like to hold on to the fairy tale fulfillment of a perfect world...where a seamless Royal Wedding took place...we also long to hold on to the feeling of this fiery Pentecost Sunday...where the spirit”s fire promises to actively fill us...every day...Leading and guiding our every step.

... honestly? We cannot lose the sensation of the Spirit’s powerful presence...because God won’t let us.

 As Ryan Stevenson sings it...

“The amazing news of the Gospel is not that *we* ***can* receive Jesus into our lives ...**But that He has already received **us into​ His.”**

Amen.