

A Time of Prayer: Consider

July 2024 Edition

CONSIDER: ACTS 2 AND OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

A series of questions for consideration by The Rev. Canon Ken Davis

This month features an invitation to reflect on how the Bible passage being highlighted intersects with our baptismal covenant. Take some time to read and meditate on the passage and on our baptismal covenant, below, then spend some time with the questions offered at the end of this document.

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:41-47)

The Baptismal Covenant, from The Book of Alternative Services

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God,

The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ,

his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**


Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ? **I will, with God's help.**
Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth? **I will, with God's help.**

CONSIDER...

- Each of the characteristics mentioned in this passage about this new community of seekers and baptized believers - how do these connect with the parts of the Baptismal Covenant?
- What comes first? How are the first characteristics (promises) the foundation of all that follows in the list?
- Which of the characteristics or promises do you find most challenging in your personal or parish life these days?
- What kind of connection is there between what the first seekers and believers were doing and others choosing to join them or be "added" to their number?