

Pentecost 2002

Fierce Love

SEEKERS CHURCH

A Christian Community

In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour

Pentecost 2002

Fierce Love

REFLECTION

We are the vessels of God's voice, her words
blowing through us, bidding us to tell the
tales
that only we can speak.

Jan L. Richardson, [In Wisdom's Path](#)

We often talk as if
the conversation made
sense
and life had a benign
order in it.
After September 11th,
who could believe that?
Was it a kind of
Pentecost?
Where all we could hear
was
the common language of
the stunned heart?
the heart murmuring in
fire?
Thousands dead,
muttering and mourning
moving across our land.
Is this the way the path
opens,

SILENCE

illusion stripped and
the raw muscle of life
laid bare before us?

CALL TO WORSHIP

Some say the goal is to
live

with godlike composure

on the full rush of
energy

like Dionysius riding
the leopard

without being torn to
pieces.

Leader: We come as fragile, earthen vessels.

Voice 1: A rush of wind, a touch of
flame –

this way the path opens –

the love of God embracing the
world.

I say: do not shout
jubilees to me

when even one of my
children is dying.

Get out the fury of love
and the keys to the
kingdom

in your kitchen drawer,

the ones that live with
all the stuff

of everyday life.

Take notice of the frail
body you inhabit

and the short life

and be about loving

with a fierceness

you have never managed
before.

Voice 2: A rush of wind, a touch of
flame –

this way the path opens –

the voice of God blowing through us,

among us,

around us.

Amen.

Elisabeth Dearborn

All: We come as fragile, earthen vessels.

We become Spirit-filled Body of Christ.

INVOCATION

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

LITANY

Leader: Marked by grief and loss,
we have known the pain of tragedy
we never thought possible.

Voice 1: Then the news, "He is risen!"
We have put our hands into his side and learned
that death cannot overcome life.

Voice 2: Now these mysterious tongues of fire –
yet we carry the scars of wounds
Jesus healed long ago.

Leader: There comes a time when we must choose
whether to remain weeping at the tomb
or to let go and tell what has happened.

All: The road beyond Emmaus is calling.
It is time to go out and proclaim what we have seen.

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: How long, O Lord, will you hide your face from us?

How long must we bear pain in our souls
and sorrow in our hearts all day long?

People: You call us to gentle living,
to cradle each moment like Mary cradling the Child, but we are neglectful
and do not know the face of God.

Leader: You call us to steadfast witnessing,
to gaze into the brightness and darkness of our hearts like the Magi gazing at the night sky,
but we turn away
and do not know the face of God.

People: You call us to bitter grief,
to let our tears rain in the desert
like Mary, and find life at the tomb,
but we are indifferent
and do not know the face of God.

Leader: You call us to fierce loving,
to kindle the hope that can ignite the world
like Peter at the feast of Pentecost,
but we are timid
and do not know the face of God.

All: How long, O Lord, will you hide your face
from us?

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: We trust in your steadfast love
and our hearts rejoice in your salvation.
We sing to the Lord
because the Lord deals bountifully with us.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

The first Sunday of each month we switch to a [Communion Liturgy](#) here.

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go out to claim your place
in this painful, complicated world.

Take with you full measure of the love of Christ
and share that love with all your might.

And may the power of the Holy Spirit keep you going
even when it seems
that there is precious little reason for hope.

People: Amen.

Worship Resources

Confession and Assurance: Based on Psalm 13.

[Seekers] [Write us] [[Seekers Liturgies](#)] [[Fair Use](#)]

Additional Prayers during Pentecost

May 19, 2002 (Pentecost Sunday)

Prayers by: Peter Bankson, Liturgist