

The Holy Spirit: Faith Seeking Understanding

Class 1: May 21, 2020

The Rev. Rob Wood

Happy Ascension Day!

Starter Questions:

1. What do you think of when you think of the Holy Spirit?
2. What do you hope to learn and experience in this class?

Syllabus

May 21	Overview, Terms, Music, Creed, Liturgy
May 28	The Holy Spirit Hebrew Scriptures
June 4	The Holy Spirit in Jesus' Ministry; Triadic Moments
June 11	The Holy Spirit as a gift to the Disciples and Us
June 18	The Holy Spirit and the Church today: Creed and Liturgy
June 25	The Holy Spirit and You

The Holy Spirit: an overview

- in the Bible
- in our music
- in church history: the Creed and the Trinity
 - o We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
- in our prayer book and in our worship
 - o baptism and Eucharist and Ordination and Confirmation

Terms in Hebrew Scriptures

Hebrew: Nephesh (breath) and Ruah (wind)

Greek: Pneuma

Activity in the Hebrew Scriptures has been summarized as such:

1. shape creation, animate animals and human kind
2. reveal God's messages
3. teach by these revelations the way to be faithful and fruitful
4. elicit faith, repentance, obedience, praise
5. equip for strong, wise and effective leadership
6. give skill and application to creative work

in summary: revealing and enabling and renewing

Activity in the Hebrew Scriptures with scripture references:

1. shape creation, animate animals and human kind
 - a. Genesis 1:1-2 (wind/spirit over waters) and
 - b. Genesis 2:7 (breath into Adam's nostrils)
 - c. Psalm 104:30 renewing
2. reveal God's messages
 - a. Isaiah 11:1-3, 42:1 and 61:1-4
3. teach by these revelations the way to be faithful and fruitful
 - a. Psalm 143:10
4. elicit faith, repentance, obedience, praise
 - a. Joel 2:28-29
5. equip for strong, wise and effective leadership
 - a. Numbers 27:18 – Joshua and leadership
 - b. Deut 34:9
 - c. 1 Samuel 10:10
6. give skill and application to creative work
 - a. Zachariah 4:6
 - b. Ezekiel 31:1-11

Other passages to understand:

I Kings 17:22 – Elijah and the child

Proverbs 1:23 – Wisdom of the sages (I will pour out my thoughts to you.)

Proverbs 4:1-9 – Spirit as Wisdom

Judges 14:6 – Samson's physical strength

Ezekiel 34:4-6 – Dry bones given life

From the Prayer Book, Pg. 852: The Holy Spirit

Q. What is the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now.

Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the Old Covenant?

A. The Holy Spirit is revealed in the Old Covenant as the giver of life, the One who spoke through the prophets.

Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the New Covenant?

A. The Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord who leads us into all truth and enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ.

Q. How do we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

A. We recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.

Q. How do we recognize the truths taught by the Holy Spirit?

A. We recognize truths to be taught by the Holy Spirit when they are in accord with the Scriptures.