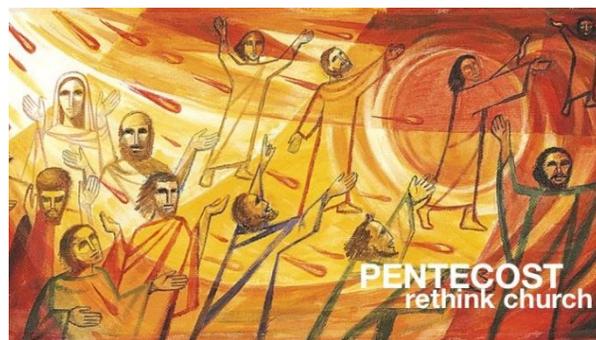


**Crossroads Daily Guide**  
**Week of May 22, 2016**  
**Pentecost - Rethink Church**



One of the earliest names given to what we now call “church” was, “People of the Way”. They were called that because they lived every day with an intention to live their lives in the same way Jesus lived his. The way of Jesus’ compassion, forgiveness, service and wisdom was their guiding light. As each person lived his or her life in the way of Jesus his love was alive in very practical and life-changing ways.

As we rethink what the church might be in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we need to remember that the greatest impact of God’s unconditional love in the world comes through people who live their lives every day with an intention to live in the way of Jesus. This week’s scriptures and reflections help us rethink how we might live in the way of Jesus in our daily lives.

**Sunday May 22, 2016**

*Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

**Reflection:** With these words Jesus makes it clear that his followers are to be living examples of God’s unconditional love wherever they are. That was the way that God’s unconditional love was going to spread throughout the world. The same is true today. The witness of God’s love is seen through our everyday actions of compassion, forgiveness and service. Today, how might you live in the way of Jesus as a “witness” to God’s unconditional love at home, work or wherever you find yourself?

**Breath Prayer:** Inhale: *Today I desire...* Exhale: *to live in the way of Jesus*

**Monday May 23, 2016**

*John 14:12 I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works...*

**Reflection:** These words of Jesus seem almost unbelievable. We are going to do greater things than Jesus did? Yet think of all the miraculous things that happen every day in the places we work. Think of the miraculous healings that have happened through medical science, technology, neuroscience and more. As we live in the way of Jesus our eyes are opened to numerous opportunities to experience the miraculous movements of God’s creative Spirit all around us. Jesus has empowered us to do miraculous things with our ordinary everyday lives. Today, how might you live in the way of Jesus by speaking words of compassion and forgiveness that can lead to miraculous acts of healing?

**Breath Prayer:** Inhale: *Today I desire...* Exhale: *to live in the way of Jesus*

**Tuesday May 24, 2016**

*Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.*

**Reflection:** In John’s Gospel Jesus said he was the light of the world. In today’s scripture he says we are the light of the world. In other words, as members of the Body of Christ alive in the world today we are to shine the light of God’s love on all in the same way that Jesus did. Think of someone you know is struggling. Today, how might you live in the way of Jesus and be the light of God’s love to this person?

**Breath Prayer:** Inhale: *Today I desire...* Exhale: *to live in the way of Jesus*

### **Wednesday May 25, 2016**

*Acts 2:46-47 Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.*

**Reflection:** As the early church met together for worship and fellowship around tables of food they were living in the way of Jesus. Jesus often met with people, right where they were in life around tables of food. There he offered everyone an unlimited welcome into God's healing grace. As followers of the way of Jesus the earliest church did the same thing. And now as followers of Jesus today we too can also demonstrate God's goodness in all the many places we meet. Today, as you meet with people how might you live in the way of Jesus by doing just one thing that demonstrates his unlimited welcome to everyone?

**Breath Prayer:** Inhale: *Today I desire...* Exhale: *to live in the way of Jesus*

### **Thursday May 26, 2016**

*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.*

**Reflection:** The way of Jesus was always kind, compassionate and forgiving. As people who live in the way of Jesus we are to be the witnesses of God's kindness, compassion and forgiveness for all. Sometimes that is easier than others. And yet at all times we can pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us to live in the way of Jesus. Today, as you live in the way of Jesus how might you pray for the Holy Spirit to help you be a witness to God's kindness, compassion and forgiveness even to those with whom you struggle to love?

**Breath Prayer:** Inhale: *Today I desire...* Exhale: *to live in the way of Jesus*

### **Friday May 27, 2016**

*John 1:14 The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.*

**Reflection:** The religious people in Jesus' day believed that God dwelled in the Temple. Today's scripture, however reveals something different. It tells us that instead of being confined to a Temple or House of Worship, God chose instead to take on human flesh and move right into the neighborhood. As we read the stories of Jesus' life we see that was the way he lived. It was in the neighborhoods that Jesus met with people of all classes and beliefs. It was in the neighborhoods where he performed some of his greatest miracles. Your neighborhood might be work, school, or any other place where you spend a great deal of time with others. Today, as you live in the way of Jesus how might you be God's love with skin on to someone in your neighborhood?

**Breath Prayer:** Inhale: *Today I desire...* Exhale: *to live in the way of Jesus*

### **Saturday May 28, 2016**

*I Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.*

**Reflection:** This passage is full of short phrases that describe very practically what love in action looks like. Which one of the phrases speaks to you the most? Today, as you live in the way of Jesus let that phrase become a prayerful guide, helping you to become a more loving person in all your relationships.

**Breath Prayer:** Inhale: *Today I desire...* Exhale: *to live in the way of Jesus*