**St. David’s Episcopal Church**

### Bean Blossom, Indiana

### Pentecost

### June 5, 2022

### Sermon by the Rev. Kate Wilson

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### The Lord is surely in this place!. Alleluia!

### Good morning! It is difficult to see clearly with all the red clothing among us, and to compete with the smells from the kitchen and Gathering Place, but let’s do our best!

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### Sharon, thank you for the prayerful welcome you wrote for the Newsletter. It was moving and humbling and beautiful, and it will support me in my work “in this place”! Gene, thank you for writing our opening prayers with your gifts of wisdom, love, and care.

### Those of you who witnessed the service of Confirmation, Reception, and Ordinations yesterday know that the Lord was without a doubt in that place. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was a delightful messenger of our Lord and urges us to engage in our ministries with the beloveds of God with heartfelt love. It may seem difficult to engage with as much joy and humor as he brings to it, yet his embodiment of his witness is an example we can aim for.

### Bishop Curry spoke about our work as witnesses, to speak for God in our actions and our relationships with others. He knows it can be hard, he is as aware and horrified by the shootings the market in Buffalo and at Robb School, which he mentioned, and he calls us to it nonetheless. He calls us to witness in the movement of the Spirit, and in the forward motion of the Spirit; for the Spirit is not a static thing. He called us to be fueled by the will of the spirit and not by our own wills

### I am not easily moved to tears but there were several moments yesterday that I was so engulfed with memories and gratitude that standing as a witness to the movement of the Holy Spirit seemed the only way to be in this painful world.

### The first time was during the confirmation and reception part of the service. I had been confirmed when I was nine years old by Bishop John J. Wright in Pittsburgh. We had a special book covering the most important tenets of the Church, and I was terrified that he would ask questions in that huge public setting – there were 150 of us being confirmed, in 4th grade – just like the children at Robb Elementary, I realize. All of our parents and other relatives, and the bravest of parishioners were also there. In this daunting crowd, with a very tall man surrounded by extra priests and men with stoles across their chests, whoever THEY were, and every acolyte, or altar boy, we had at St. Gabriel’s parish – and that he would call on me and I wouldn’t know the answer and I wouldn’t be confirmed and it would be awful! He did ask questions but my guardian angel shielded me from humiliation and it ended.

### I knew this was about actively choosing my faith and knowing what I was choosing and that the Holy Spirit was why we wore white robes with red collars and a red beanie and that I was willing to witness to Jesus even at the pain of death. That’s why they slapped us then, to represent suffering. I understood all that. But I was not embraced by the Holy Spirit.

### But in the early 2000s, I was received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Richard Shimpfky of the diocese of El Camino Real. I didn’t believe in God yet, or at least whatever it was that people called God, but I knew there was an essence and at that moment, I felt it to the core of my being.

Kate, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic   
and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship   
of this Communion.  God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,   
bless, preserve, and keep you.  *Amen.*

### That’s it. So simple. But listen with the ears of someone separated from God and yearning for that holy link: we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion.

### This church embraces me, just as I am. Just as I am.

### I was home and felt it to the soles of my feet. In my soul, and soles!

### At the ordinations of two faithful men, I relived my own. The prayers. The vows. The essential importance of a sacrament, an outward sign of an inward grace, of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Here, too, there were many people on the altar and most of the priests of the diocese who would soon surround me with grace as I was vested as a priest. With this stole and this chasuble, gifts from my EfM group and people I will always appreciate for their love, and will love in return.

### We chanted Veni Sancte Spiritus, Come Holy Spirit in gentle urging. The hymn has been chanted for over 500 years. We chanted the phrase Veni Sancte Spiritus, lulled by its rosary of words. We chanted as a single cantor brought us the bright light of the prayer.

*Come, Holy Spirit,*   
*send forth the heavenly*   
*radiance of your light.*

***C****ome, father of the poor,*   
*come, giver of gifts,*   
*come, light of the heart.*

*Greatest comforter,*  
*sweet guest of the soul,*   
*sweet consolation.*

*In labor, rest,*   
*in heat, temperance,*   
*in tears, solace.*

*O most blessed light,*   
*fill the inmost heart*   
*of your faithful.*

*Without your grace,*   
*there is nothing in us,*   
*nothing that is not harmful.*

*Cleanse that which is unclean,*  
*water that which is dry,*   
*heal that which is wounded.*

*Bend that which is inflexible,*  
*fire that which is chilled,*   
*correct what goes astray.*

*Give to your faithful,*  
*those who trust in you,*   
*the sevenfold gifts.*

*Grant the reward of virtue,*  
*grant the deliverance*   
*of salvation, grant eternal joy.*

Here I took my own vows silently, to Invite, Inspire, Sanctify, and Heal. To invite all to our covenanted community of Christ. To inspire those I serve with the hope of the Spirit, the call of the Gospel, and the fellowship we share. To sanctify our lives through the expansive and welcoming rites of the Church granted in ordination, and to heal broken hearts, broken lives, broken families as best I can through the gifts of the love of that mysterious Holy One I could not yet name God. If I can invite, inspire, sanctify, and heal my joy and peace blooms. I thank you for the blessing of working with you, in this place.

Veni Sancte Spiritus was once sung at every Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit fulfilled Jesus’s promise for a Divine Advocate, Counselor, and Giver of Life. It is now sung at every ordination to remind priests just who’s in charge of our lives. With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit on that blessed day of the first Pentecost, the chosen disciples became Apostles, mature in their faith. They left competition with one another behind. They knew Jesus as Christ. The words they needed to proclaim Christ came to them and all people of all tribes and all languages could understand what they for so long could not understand themselves. And they were granted the perseverance and faith to continue to bring God to all places, witnessing the Good News with body, mind, and soul.

It is for this we give thanks. It is with this that we are able to carry that witness to new places so that surely God is in this place, and so many more that we have not yet seen.

### Mary, I would appreciate it if you would stand. You left St. David’s during COVID when the church met only on Zoom and we were unable to bless your work at St. David’s and your new call to Riley Children’s Hospital.

### Let us pray.

### Prayer for the Ministry of the Rev. Mary Bargiel

O Lord of our understandings, you have called your servant Mary to serve in the sacred role of chaplain at Riley Children’s Hospital. We pray without doubt that you will strengthen her with your grace, and that Mary will devote herself, body, soul, and spirit to this ministry as she had done so lovingly with the people of St. David’s. Enlighten her understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of her heart and will center in what you would have her do. Make her an instrument of your compassion and love for the children and families entrusted to her care, Be always with her in carrying out the duties of her ministry. In prayer, strengthen her devotion; in praises, heighten her love and gratitude; in working with patients, families, and staff, give her the readiness of thought and expression; and grant that she may be always attuned to the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit who moves constantly within the floors and rooms of Riley. All this I ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.