

**PENTECOST**

**MAY 31, 2020**

**JOHN 20:19-23**

What are the great events of your life? We seem to remember the good and the bad. We remember the bad in national and world history: 9/11, Kennedy assassination, pandemic. We remember both the bad and the good in our personal lives: Illness, death and accidents – the bad. Birthdays, baptisms and graduations (prior to this year) – the good. Great Christian Holy days are counted as good: Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

Pentecost! How did that get in there? In our modern culture, Pentecost comes in early summer when school is out and vacations are on. Pentecost does not get the celebration or the press of Christmas or Easter. Yet in Christian history, it is equally important.

The first great act of God was creation (Creed, Article I).

The second great act of God was salvation (Creed, Article II).

The third great act of God is spirituality (Creed, Article III).

The three great acts of God are meant to be connected for a Christian. When they are disconnected, we get a truncated view of God. We get a great God of creation in nature, but separated from Jesus Christ, or we get a Jesus, divorced from creation and the spirit, and then Jesus becomes only a great man of history. Or we get a spirituality which has no connection to creation or Jesus and has no roots and can become almost anything and often does.

In a time of coronavirus, we Christians proclaim Pentecost. Pentecost is knowing that the spirit of Christ reaches back into creation to help our scientists find a vaccine and that the same spirit of Christ moves us into a future that brings healing and grace.

Prayer: (ancient) Dear God, open the hearts of your people by sending us YOU. Amen.