

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"Mountain of the Holy Cross" — Thomas Moran

The Day of Pentecost

Rite I Holy Eucharist

May 24, 2026 at 8 AM

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider

Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music

Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden & Kathleen M. Murray, Junior Warden

*The Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in celebration of the fourteenth birthday of Emma Willix*

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The bell is rung and the People stand.

Gathering Sentences

BCP 323

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyrie

BCP 324

Presider Kyrie eleison.

People **Christe eleison.**

Presider Kyrie eleison.

**Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, who on this day
didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people
by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit:
Grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgment in all things,
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the same Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The People sit.

First Reading

Acts 2:1-21

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

25. O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
**in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**
26. Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things
too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.
27. There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.
28. All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.
29. You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
30. You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
**you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.**
31. You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.
32. May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.
33. He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
34. I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.
35. May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the LORD.
37. Bless the LORD, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Reader A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Gospel

John 7:37-39

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

BCP Alt

The Presider moves to the Font, and the People stand.

Friends in Christ, Baptism is not the rite of a moment but the commitment of a lifetime. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with our Lord. Therefore let us reaffirm our Baptismal Vows together with all those who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this month.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as your self?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

The Presider pours water into the font.

Blessing the Water

Celebrating Common Prayer

Let us give thanks to the Lord:

God is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever! You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Accept our sacrifice of praise, we pray, and sanctify these waters of your new creation, that we, with all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, may be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessèd be God for ever.

The Presider sprinkles the people with the aspergillum.

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Sally our Bishop, and Andrew our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, Rebecca Michelle, our governor, and Kathleen, the mayor of this town, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [*especially...*], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 331

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The People kneel.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Absolution

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Comfortable Words

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden,
and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

Peace

BCP 332

The People stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Announcements

Andrew Kruger

Offertory Sentence

BCP 344

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty. For all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:11



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the People.
Alternatively, you may give to Trinity online:
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

The Presentation of Gifts

1 Chronicles 29:14b

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord:
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The People remain standing.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

BCP 337

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table,
O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs
under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord
whose property is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Invitation

Presider The Gifts of God:
People **For the People of God.**

Holy Communion

The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host. Gluten-free wafers are available by simple request to the priest.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

The People stand, and all pray together

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee,
For that thou hast fed us with this holy sacrament,
to knit us in one with Christ our Savior,
and to grant us a foretaste of that Heavenly Banquet
which thou hast prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

Blessing

BCP 339

And now may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The ministers recess.

Dismissal

BCP 340

Presider Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**



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- Society of St. Francis. *Celebrating Common Prayer*. Accessed May 19, 2026. [Oremus: Celebrating Common Prayer](#). Used by permission.

For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable.

All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall immediately after the service. An email blast is sent every Thursday by 2 PM with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

What you need to know today...

Baptism Today at the 10 AM service, the baptisms of The Baptisms of Jack Mjumbe Ambuka, Jr., Lucille Michelle Blandy, Annabella Milagros Lopez-Cassano and Margaux Olivia Ortiz.

Fellowship Hour Today, in Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

Vestry Meeting Today at 11:30 AM in Witherington Hall, please pray for the leadership of our parish:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Trinity's Vestry for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Care for Moms & Newborns" The Outreach Committee is collecting donations until next Sunday, May 31 for this project, through Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), which connects expectant mothers with local health care providers and critical education programming about food and nutrition to keep both mother and baby healthy.

Cranford Clergy Council / Interfaith Human Relations Committee Scholarship Applicant must be a graduating senior from any public or private school and is a congregant of a Cranford House of Worship. Applications must be completed and submitted by 11:59 PM on May 27. See details in this week's email blast.

What you need to know this week...

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday-Thursday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

Parish Office Hours Office Manager Marion Nechuta is available Tuesday through Thursday from 12 noon to 3:30 PM.

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals There are no rehearsals on Wednesday, May 27; normally, rehearsal for Handbells is 7 to 7:50 PM; Adult Choir is 8-9 PM.

What you need to know in the future...

Annual Trinity Sunday Barbeque Next Sunday, May 31 after the 10 AM Eucharist. Click on the QR code or see this week's email blast.



Cranford High School Madrigal Choir Next Sunday, May 31 at 1:30 PM in the church. The choir presents its annual spring concert; the performance is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Cranford High School choral program.

Trinity Men's Group Saturday, June 6 at 8 AM in Witherington Hall.

Trinity Forum Sunday, June 7 in Witherington Hall after both services. An informational forum, including intercultural communication awareness, will be held in preparation for the Taizé service and Potluck dinner with our brothers and sisters from St. John's in Elizabeth.

Taizé Service and Potluck Dinner Thursday, June 11 starting at 7 PM hosted at Trinity. Connect with our neighbors from St John's in Elizabeth. Contact Fr. Andy if you are willing to champion the Taizé set up, or hall set up, or potluck planning and organization.

ECW Trinity Book Scholarship Applications are being collected until July 21. Application is on the email blast.

Cover Art

Thomas Moran (1837-1926); his watercolors of Yellowstone were so admired that he received invitations to join government-sponsored expeditions to western territories. In 1873, William Jackson photographed Colorado's "Mountain of the Holy Cross." When Moran saw the photograph, he quickly recognized a subject perfectly suited to his brush. He traveled to the Rocky Mountains, where he undertook an arduous climb to paint the celebrated mountain with a cross of snow near its summit. The painting was chosen for today's cover because it evokes so powerfully the our Lord's promise in the Gospel; "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Reading John 7:37-39 at Pentecost

Pentecost is often imagined primarily through the dramatic images of Acts: wind, flame, and many languages spoken at once. Yet the Gospel appointed for Pentecost, John 7:37-39, invites the Church into another image of the Holy Spirit: water. John tells us that Jesus speaks these words during the Festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot, one of the great pilgrimage festivals of Judaism. Sukkot remembered Israel's journey through the wilderness, when the people depended on God's presence and provision day by day. During the festival, water from the Pool of Siloam was carried ceremonially into the Temple and poured out at the altar while prayers were offered for rain, renewal, and the life of the world.

It is in the midst of that ritual that Jesus cries out: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink." The Gospel suggests that Jesus is not simply participating in the feast, but fulfilling its deepest hope. The water poured in the Temple becomes a sign pointing toward the living water of the Spirit. John makes this explicit: "Now he said this about the Spirit." For Christians, Pentecost is therefore not separate from the story of Israel, but deeply rooted within it. The Spirit poured out upon the Church is connected to the wilderness journey, to God's sustaining presence in times of uncertainty, and to the hope that divine life might flow outward for the healing of the world.

This connection also enriches our sacramental imagination. Water in scripture is rarely static. It moves, nourishes, cleanses, and gives life. In baptism, ordinary water becomes the outward and visible sign of God's inward grace. At Pentecost, the Church remembers that the Spirit still moves through human lives like living water - renewing communities, softening hardened hearts, and drawing creation toward the fullness of God's love. In a weary and fragmented world, Pentecost proclaims that the wells of divine mercy have not run dry.

Brown, Raymond E. The Gospel According to John I-XII. Anchor Bible 29. New York: Doubleday, 1966

Pentecost

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday. It is the culmination of the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church (*BCP*, p. 15), and is identified by the BCP as one of the feasts that is "especially appropriate" for baptism (p. 312). The other four are Easter, the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, All Saints' Day or the Sunday following, and the time of the Bishop's visitation.

The Holy Spirit is the agent whereby the Risen Christ is made present to the church. The Day of Pentecost does not mark the beginning of the Holy Spirit's work in the world, as is sometimes wrongly supposed. Only Luke describes the events of this Day, and in Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit is at work from the very first chapter onward, beginning with the angelic announcement of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth (*Luke 1:15, 35*). Luke is clear that the Spirit of God is ever active in creation. What is "new" about Pentecost is that this same Spirit who has worked in many ways now constitutes the church of God. Thus the Day of Pentecost in Christian worship is primarily about the church as corporate community.

The Day is, to use the terms of formal theology, "ecclesiological in focus." That is, this Day is not about the work of the Spirit in the hearts of individual believers; there is ample opportunity to deal with that work throughout the year. The Day of Pentecost is about the formation of the church out of a frightened band of followers; that tight-lipped crowd, which had huddled timidly behind closed doors, is thrust by the Spirit into the streets of Jerusalem to proclaim the gospel in terms everyone can understand.

How are we to account for this change? Only by recognizing that the Spirit is the One who forms the church by making the Risen Christ manifest in power. That formation has to do with us as clearly as with the apostolic band twenty centuries ago. Still the Spirit mediates to the church the Resurrection Presence unfettered by time or space, so we who are timid in the faith may become the community of faith, boldly witnessing in the world.



Website: TrinityCranford.org

Instagram: [@trinity_cranford_1872](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_cranford_1872)

Facebook: Trinity Episcopal Church, Cranford

Connect to Online Services and Meetings: us04web.zoom.us/j/595488321

Meeting ID: *595 488 3214*

Password: *1872*

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