Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

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.

Herrel, Edie Mae. All the same, but beautifully different; God made them all, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/59832 [retrieved May 12, 2026]. Original source: Image was donated by Edie Mae Herrel and Dan Herrel, dkherrel@hotmail.com, nancynuss@gmail.com, Patrick.herrel@hotmail.com.

COLLECT

Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

"When wisdom comes, transformation comes. Wisdom makes the difference between the succeeding man and the failing man."
— Patience Johnson

"The Spirit did everything on the Day of Pentecost and afterwards. It was the Spirit who gave the boldness, the wisdom, the message, and the converting power."
— Andrew Murray

Without Pentecost the Christ-event – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now.
— Henri Nouwen

In 1 Corinthians 12 the Apostle Paul is speaking about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how different members of the Body of Christ have different gifts. The Spirit distributes gifts "to each one individually as she wills." What do you consider to be the spiritual gifts, talents, or passions you feel the Spirit has placed within you. It might be that they are listed here or in other places in the Bible. How are you currently stewarding them?

I Sing the Body Electric (#6 – Excerpt) *by Walt Whitman*

The man's body is sacred and the woman's body is sacred,
No matter who it is, it is sacred—is it the meanest one in the laborers' gang?
Is it one of the dull-faced immigrants just landed on the wharf?
Each belongs here or anywhere just as much as the well-off, just as much as you,
Each has his or her place in the procession.

(All is a procession,
The universe is a procession with measured and perfect motion.)

Do you know so much yourself that you call the meanest ignorant?
>Do you suppose you have a right to a good sight, and he or she has no right to a sight?
Do you think matter has cohered together from its diffuse float, and the soil is on the surface, and water runs and vegetation sprouts,
For you only, and not for him and her?

To Listen:

In Christ There Is No East or West by John Oxenham
One Spirit of Love by Andra Moran

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xA1xzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1