Pentecost Prayer for Justice
By Diann L. Neu

The feast of Pentecost signifies the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon Earth. This Spirit is the life force energy that flows through the universe. She is the Divine presence that embraces everything in the cosmos. Let us pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, breathe your Gifts into us as we struggle for justice.
Come, Spirit of Truth, enlighten our resistance, our insistence, our persistence.
Come, Spirit of Peace, unite races and nations to stop wars and violence.
When we are fearful, challenge us to act bravely.
When we are lonely, bless us with communities of love and compassion.
When we are weary, replenish us with bold dreams.
Open our hearts to listen to the cries of those who are pushed to the margins.
Free our tongues to speak truth with courage.
Unclog our ears to hear the needs of the children of the world.
Come, Spirit of Wisdom, spark in us a new fire.

Amen. Blessed Be. Let It Be So.

© 2017 Diann L. Neu is Co-founder and Co-director of Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).
Marching for Climate Justice

By Hannah Dorfman

On a sweltering April 29, 2017 WATER Staff Associate Hannah Dorfman and her dad David Dorfman joined over 300,000 marchers in Washington, DC and around the nation for the People’s Climate March.

Environmental groups, Indigenous Nations, students, community activists, and faith organizations came together to resist the current administration’s dangerous environmental agenda and advocate for a clean energy economy. The irony of the heat was not lost on the women for the People’s Climate March.

WATER Says Goodbye to Mallory Naake

On May 8, 2017 WATER Staff Associate Mallory Naake graduated with her Masters in Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary. During her two years at WATER, Mallory played a key role in planning monthly WATERrituals, coordinating our resource library, and so much more!

Mallory will head back to her hometown of Sacramento, California to begin a yearlong Clinical Pastoral Education program at the University of California Davis Hospital.

Congratulations, Mallory! We are grateful for your time and amazing energy.

We will miss you!

Photo: Cindy Lapp and Diann Neu, clergy learning partners, congratulate Mallory Naake on her graduation from Wesley Theological Seminary at the Washington National Cathedral.

Award . . . (from page 1)

And in a particular way this afternoon, I want to acknowledge my friend and colleague Emily Cohen and her cohort of religious explorers about to graduate this spring. They are proof that the richness of HDS lies ahead of us.

It is remarkable how quickly women have achieved parity, not to mention outpaced the game here at Harvard. Likewise, people of color, LGBTQ people, people of many faiths and of no faith whatsoever bring to this institution and to the world an endless array of talents and commitments. If ever anyone worries about diluting the product by diversifying the pool, let HDS be living proof that only get better with more variety.

A hundred years from now when HDS convenes for the 300th birthday, I daresay very few, if any, of us will be present in body. But I wonder if the concerns that we Gomessians today represent—civil rights (Charles Adams), Islam in America (Precious Muhammad), international human rights (David Little), justice for women and LGBTQ (Mary E. Hunt), women’s studies (Connie Buchanan), and world religions (Robert H.L. Slater)—will still be on the agenda.

I fantasize that they will be long settled and that future HDS alumn will highlight other issues in need of critical religious attention—

the environment, an end to war, and a new, just economic order. Perhaps 100 years from now, robots and even some of the Great Apes will number among the HDS alums—who knows?

But whatever follows us a century from now will certainly be in the same position that we are in today. Peter Gomes put his finger on it, and with this I conclude. He wrote in a sermon in 1990:

“Therefore, those of you who think that now is the moment that we celebrate need only look around you to see what remains to be done, and those of you antiquarians who think it was back there somewhere and we’ve lost it, that we have only to go back and find it again, you too don’t understand that what we seek is something that we have never yet had, which is why we continue to seek it. We’re not recovering anything, we’re hoping to discover something, and that is why virtue and wisdom are necessary ingredients in the ongoing renewal of our public, civic life together.”

I urge us to cultivate the virtue and wisdom that emerge from myriad sources. I daresay virtue and wisdom are needed this season more than any I can recall for our collective survival and the thriving of this planet.

Mary E. Hunt is Co-founder and Co-director of Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).

WATER in Cuba—The Exchange Continues

By Mary E. Hunt

My fourth trip to Cuba in May 2017 deepened WATER’s relationship with people there, especially those at the Seminario Evangelico de Teologia in Matanzas (SET). Vice Rector Clara Luz Ajo is always a welcoming presence in a faculty that plays an important role in developing ecumenical theology in the Caribbean region.

I taught a master’s level class on professional ethics. Interestingly, my several students were 7th Day Adventist men for whom feminist theology was a novelty.

A highlight of this visit was an intensive seminar that I shared with three wonderful women colleagues who are working on Doctor of Ministry degrees at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Seminar participants were Ofelia Ortega, former rector of SET in Cuba; Marta Palma from Chile, a longtime regional staff person of the Presbyterian Church USA passed through. Church-sponsored groups from New York and Florida were there; professors from Canada were involved in a seminar on decolonial theology. Fifty Pentecostals spent a week in prayer and study.

Daily chapel services and life in the dining room provide glimpses of Cuban life unavailable to the ordinary tourist. Meetings with the rector, dean, vice rector, and other faculty provided opportunities to exchange ideas about theological education especially in Latin America. Professor Ajo will join us at WATER in July as our exchange continues. This is one way that Women Crossing Worlds can make sense of the often senseless situation of U.S.-Cuban relations that remain tenuous at best. Happily, relations between SET and WATER are stronger than ever as we confront the challenges ahead together.

Mary E. Hunt is Co-founder and Co-director of Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).