



## THE ORTHODOX ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Office of the Metropolitan Archbishop

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Established A.D. 1964

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Whitsunday

**Re: The Spirit of unity**

The clergy and laity of the Orthodox Anglican Communion,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Today we mark the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Men and women who just days earlier were confused, perplexed, and even afraid, now, through the power of the Holy Spirit, boldly proclaimed the saving works of God to people of many nations. From that day until today, the gospel has been proclaimed around the world to people of every tongue, tribe, and nation. The diversity created by the confounding of tongues at Babel, has been unified by the Spirit-empowered message of the tongues of Pentecost. It is the same Spirit we receive at Baptism, and Confirmation. It is also the same Spirit which enables us to know unity as the Body of Christ at every celebration of the Holy Eucharist. *“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”*

Divisions among men that are driven by passion, lust, and greed, are diabolically inspired. It is only after the Fall that we see brother slay brother. The sinful divisions among men that appeared after the Fall find their reversal in the Spirit of unity. We are united by the Spirit. It is the Spirit of God who brings about true unity. I encourage you to join with me in especially praying for the unity of God’s people this Whitsuntide:

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace; Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly, union and concord: that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God bless you,

The Most Revd Thomas E. Gordon

Metropolitan Archbishop of the Orthodox Anglican Communion