



## **Holy Comforter**

**February 5 – March 12, 2023**

**The Bible As It Is Presents**

# **SIX CONVERSATIONS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: OUTLINE OF THE FAITH, OR CATECHISM**

**Sunday, March 12, 2023 – Question 6**

How is the Holy Ghost described in The Creed of Saint Athanasius at BCP 864-865 different, if at all, from the Holy Spirit described in the Catechism? (See accompanying materials).

**Sunday, March 19, 2023 – The Final Question**

### **1 John 4:13-16 – How we know the Holy Spirit is in Us – NKJV**

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

### **Listening For the Holy Spirit**

The above quotation from Scripture tells us that The Holy Spirit is available to us. As Christians, we received The Holy Spirit at our baptism. On Sunday, March 19, 2023, we are going to sit in a circle in the tradition of the Quakers in a Friends Meeting as described below. During that time, we will ponder a question which will be posted prior to our meeting. We are not doing this to test the Holy Spirit, but rather to test ourselves to learn whether we have the patience to wait and listen. No one is required to say anything during this time unless truly compelled to do so by the Holy Spirit. You may sing, recite Holy Scripture, or pray as The Spirit moves you. You are not required to remain during the thirty minutes, and you may depart at any time.

### **From Quaker.org**

Quaker worship began without pastors or clergy leading. It was simple gathering where Friends would seek to hear what the Spirit of the Living God had to say in their midst. Out of the silence, a Friend would speak when they felt led by the Spirit to share what they heard in their hearts. This sitting in silence together, in the presence of Christ Jesus who “is come to teach the people himself”

(an early statement from George Fox about the real presence of Christ in their worship gatherings), was for Friends their practice of communion. One does not need the bread and wine when Christ is present with you. Overtime, Friends' practice has shifted. There are still Friends who meet in this expectant waiting silence (they are sometimes referred to as "unprogrammed" Friends) and there are now Friends who have pastors, sing, pray, share in teachings from the Bible, and practice silence (they are sometimes referred to as "programmed" Friends). Both groups generally understand listening to God's Spirit, experiencing communion together as a meeting, and participating in the co-leading of worship to be central to their worship but they practice that in different ways. Whereas for early Friends "unprogrammed" worship was the norm, today, there are far more "programmed" Friends around the world.