

May 23, 2021
Pentecost Sunday

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song"
By Peter Cutts Setting by John Carter

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

The day of Pentecost is here;

The day when the flames of faith dance in our hearts.

Today we celebrate the birth of the Christian church;

The day when our tongues utter Good News to all the world.

Today God puts the Spirit within us;

The day when compassion is seared into our souls.

The day of Pentecost is here;

Let the people of God rejoice!

Hymn VU 198 "Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us"

- 1 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
 come with pentecostal power;
 give the church a stronger vision,
 help us face each crucial hour.
 Built upon a firm foundation,
 Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,
 still the church is called to mission
 that God's love shall be made known.
- 2 We would raise our hallelujahs
 for the grace of yesteryears;
 for tomorrow's unknown pathway,
 hear, O God, our humble prayers.
 In the church's pilgrim journey
 you have led us all the way,
 still in presence move before us,
 fire by night and cloud by day.
- 3 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
 give us words of fire and flame.
 Help our feeble lips to praise you,
 glorify your holy name.
 God, all holy, Son and Spirit,
 three in one: what mystery!
 We would sing our loud hosannas
 now and through eternity.

Opening Prayer

Spirit of the Living God dance with us this day.

Come, Whirlwind of Wonder!

Sing to the groaning of creation.

Come, still small voice of Hope!

Enflame us with your passion for justice.

Come, Liberator of the Least!

Purify us of our grasping greediness.

Come, Advocate of selfless living!

Silence our gossiping tongues.

Come, Harmony of God's Heart!

Wind of God blow through us;

Fire of God burn within us;

Tongue of God speak to us

on this day of birth and renewal, and evermore.

Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "[Come, Holy Spirit](#)" By Victor C. Johnson

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Responsive Reading: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

O God, how manifold are your works!

**With Wisdom at your side you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

There lies the great and mighty Sea,
teeming with living things both great and small.

**Upon it sail the ships, and there is Leviathan,
the monster you made to play in it.**

All these look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

**What you give them they gather up.
When you open your hand,
you fill them with good things.**

But when you hide your face they despair.
When you take away their breath, they die,
and return to dust.

**But when you send out your spirit, they live again,
and you renew the face of the earth.**

May your glory, O God, endure forever.

May you rejoice, O God, in your works.

When you look at the earth it trembles,
when you touch the mountains they smoke.

I will sing to God as long as I live.

I will praise my God while I have being.

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ '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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Alternate); Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Meditation: "Happy ReBirthday!"

Hymn VU 477 "I Come with Joy"

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here, alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion modified from a prayer by Thom M. Shuman © 2021 and used by permission

May the Spirit of Pentecost touch you this day.

And touch you, as well.

May the soft, gentle breeze of love fill your hearts.

We open them to the Spirit who would overflow from our hearts.

May the words of Pentecost offer you new songs.

We will sing praise and thanksgiving to our God.

Wow! What you do, God of imagination and wonder! You breathe your Spirit into chaos, even the confusion in which we are living, to shatter the emptiness of our hearts to reshape them into beauty. You whispered your Word into the silence, and rivers raced to the oceans, and bugs creepy-crawled across meadows. Whisper your Word now into the silence of our isolation, so we might see the butterflies drifting in the air, and see the dolphins leaping from the waves. Like any loving parent, you fed creation with hope, as you long for us to care for others, but we run off with tellers of lies, we lock ourselves in death's quarantine. Yet these moments of fear and worry are not new, and so you keep sending those we call prophets, to tell of what you are doing and will do. Yet we continue to huddle in with sellers of fear to shutter our hearts from such words. So you sent Jesus to us, to breathe your peace upon us and to bring us back to you. With those who continue to live in isolation yet long to share the Spirit with others, we will sing your praise forever and ever:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Shattering Spirit.

All creation will sing until it has no more breath.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who stands in our midst speaking peace.

Hosanna in the highest!

Like your glory, may your holiness be eternal, God of wind and flames, and may your Child, Jesus, bless us with words of wonder and joy. Though we would sit in our loneliness, he comes to be with us in love. Though we would keep our souls shuttered, he comes to throw them wide open with grace and hope. Though we would remain hidden away in death's cold upper room, he enters to take its power over us away, so the bright flames of the resurrection might dance over our lives, bringing us hope. As we would open our hearts to the Spirit, as we would welcome the peace and power, we tell of that faith grounded in Pentecost's mystery:

Drawing his last breath, Christ died for us;

with the sudden breath of the resurrection, Christ was raised;

Christ will return, to breathe the Spirit into us forever.

Here in this moment, with people gathered wherever they are, alone or with others, may you pour the Spirit of Pentecost upon the simple gifts of the bread and the cup. With the brokenness of the bread, we pray hope might dance upon our souls so we will might become a mighty wind to bring healing to our shattered world. Drinking from the cup of grace, we pray it flow through us so we might become a fountain of unending generosity to parched people thirsting for life.

Reignite the passion of Your church, God of flaming tongues, that it might fulfill the mission you created it to fill. Especially this week we pray for Trinity United Church in Ingersoll, and their minister, the Reverend Tracy Crick-Butler.

Inspire the leaders of this world, Spirit God, that they might rule with justice and equity for all peoples. Especially this week we pray for the peoples of the islands of the Indian Ocean:

Comoros, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mauritius, and the Seychelles.

Strengthen and comfort all who mourn, and bring healing and wholeness of spirit to all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention, or recovering from treatment. Especially we pray for the Rev. Lynne Allin, Pastor Mark Beach and his wife, Linda Chanyi, Bill Parcels, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....(30+ second pause)..

And when that day comes when we no longer need to shelter in place or isolate from others, you will gather us around the Table with our sisters and brothers of every time, of every place, breathing the Spirit upon us, telling us the Word of grace and hope, as we sing our thanks forever and ever, God in Community, Holy in One.

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now as forever. Amen.

Prayer Following Communion

We give thanks, God of Pentecost, that you have refreshed us at your table, by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and unite us in courage and peace. May we rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit this day and always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Holy One, your Spirit is the wind of change that blows through your church and around the world. It blows the dust off our fears, that we might be more generous people. It blows the dust off our gifts that we think are so paltry, that we might realize how they can bring hope and life to others. It blows the dust off our biases, that we might see all people as our sisters and brothers. We offer ourselves, our skill, and share our material wealth, gifts of grace for those in need of it.

Bless all that we offer, that new life and new hope sweep across the world, as it did when your Spirit swept over the waters of creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn VU 194 "Filled with the Spirit's Power"

- 1 Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord
the infant church confessed its risen Lord.
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
no less your power of fellowship display.
- 2 Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
that unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,
and readiness in each to work for all.
- 3 Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
with your compassion all the human race.
Like wind and fire with life among us move,
till we are known as Christ's, and Christian prove.

Benediction

May the gentleness of the Spirit heal you;
the boldness of the Spirit transform you;
and the gifts of the Spirit equip you to serve and worship God,
this day and every day.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 884 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, XX
the trees of the field will clap their hands, XX
the trees of the field will clap their hands XX
while you go out with joy.

Postlude: "Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart with O Breath of Life"
F. C. Atkinson & Joel Blomquist
Arr. by Cindy Berry

Announcements.....

Scripture Lessons for next week:

Pentecost: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17