

First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,
we open our doors and hearts to all,
in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



Day of Pentecost

*The Lord's Day
Day of Pentecost
Half Past Seven in the Morning*

The Worship of God

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.

~William Temple

The Gathering Music

The Proclamation

Alleluia! The Spirit of the still speaking God has descended
on all flesh!

The Spirit has descended indeed! Alleluia!

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The wind and fire of the still speaking Spirit of Pentecost be with you.
And also with you.

The Music for Piano

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place! Suddenly,
a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind!

**There appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one
of them, filling them with the Holy Spirit!**

They began to speak in other tongues, amazing and perplexing everyone in close
proximity to these strange voices! Everyone present wondered, "What does this
mean?"

**Echoing the prophet Joel, Peter declared that this prophesy would come to
pass, that on this great and wondrous day, whoever calls on God shall be
saved!**

Let us worship God!

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Pentecostal God, we have gathered to worship the One whose holy and still speaking Spirit is poured out on all flesh; we rejoice in this sacred setting that old and young may see visions and dream dreams; lead us out of the enslavement to our fears and our undue focus on the things that trouble us and diminish our humanity; prepare us in this sacred setting to do those greater works to which Christ calls us; may our worship be pleasing in your sight, amazing God; may the One who created humanity as one people, come among us now to unify us; out of our differences, create understanding and eagerness as we explore the variety among us; out of our narrowness, fashion a breadth of involvement to feed our spirits; may we dream dreams and see visions, truly hearing our sisters and brothers, responding to them with empathy and love; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*The Opening Hymn

On Pentecost the Spirit Came

MELITA

*On Pentecost the Spirit came, and none would ever be the same!
A mighty wind with tongues of fire and tongues of voices now a choir!
O listen to the Spirit's call, a voice from God to one and all!*

*The pow'r of God unleashed that day, the Spirit's path shone bright the way!
With Babel's chaos calmed as one, God's universal love was won!
O listen to the Spirit's call, a voice from God upon us all!*

*A sermon for the ages preached as Peter sober dared to teach!
The word made flesh amazed the crowd, its stirring message now allowed!
O listen to the Spirit's call, a voice from God to great and small!*

*Lord, as of old at Pentecost, the Spirit's tempest boldly tossed!
A prophet's voice now clearly heard, a hush now calling forth the word!
We pray the Spirit now descend on us your people whom you send!*

*Display today your Spirit's pow'r! May Pentecost come near this hour!
Renew your Church for these new days that we might live God's holier ways!
Inspired by Pentecostal flame, we'll serve the world, in your blest name!*

*Now as we gather this feast day, your people need you, lest we stray!
Bring back the wind and stir the flame! Empow'r our worship in your name!
And you, who dared to call us friend, walk one with us till journey's end!*

*The Litany of Praise

As one in the realm of God we are invited to this sacred hour! In excited expectancy, we wait in wonder and awe for God's transcendent appearing.

Together in this sacred time and space, old and young, rich and poor, believers and skeptics all, we are amazingly assembled as one voice, anticipating the presence of God's Spirit!

On that Spirit-infused day, the appearance of the Holy suddenly revealed in the midst of people from every nation, surprises abounded, crystallized by the rush of a violent wind and tongues of fire!

With joy we tremble before the power displayed by the Spirit of Pentecost! What might happen if we allowed the Spirit to invade our lives?

On this Pentecostal celebration, receive the surprises of God, moved to speak and act in new ways!

With hesitant eagerness, we welcome God's still speaking Spirit, risking the audacity of stepping into God's vision unfolding before for us! Praise the Lord!

*The Gloria

GREATOREX

*Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Comforter!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Witness from the Epistles

ROMANS 8:14-19

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again! Rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship! And by him we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in God's sufferings in order that we may also share in God's glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites. Residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism). Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine!” Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you! Listen carefully to what I say! These people are not drunk, as you suppose! It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel! ““In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.””

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying.

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

How Can I Keep from Singing

Dale Bishop

The Music for Meditation

The Service of Holy Communion

The Concerns of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever!
Amen.**

The Receiving of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
Praise triune God whom we adore!*

*The Presentation of Our Gifts

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 236 *Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow* ABERYSTWYTH

*The Benediction

*The Fellowship Song *Let There Be Peace on Earth* WORLD PEACE

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
With every step I take, let this be my joyous creed.
To take each moment and
live each moment in peace, eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

The Music for Piano

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

The color for Pentecost is red. Pentecost, the only ancient festival of the Jewish faith that also appears on the Christian liturgical calendar, occurs fifty days after Easter and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. The term is taken from the Greek and is translated "fifty." Red symbolizes fire and the blood of the martyrs. Symbols, such as the descending dove and tongues of fire, are commonly used to depict the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Worship Notes:

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Concerns of the Church

In accordance with CDC guidelines, wearing of masks is now optional. We will continue to sign in for worship. If we have cases of COVID within our congregation brought to our attention, we will notify everyone as soon as possible.

Prayer Concerns: As we worship today our thoughts are with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

Scripture readers, ushers, and camcorder operators are always needed as well as readers for the Concerns of the Church. You may sign up by visiting our website; or you may also contact Joy Turpin at: joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or (715)-479-6560.

Just a friendly reminder! The last Sunday of the month is always *A Unity Service*, meeting at *Nine o'clock in the Morning*. Please put these services on your calendar.

We are resuming Coffee Hour today in the parlor following each Sunday service. We are looking for people to provide goodies to share along with the beverages. These can be homemade or purchased. You can contribute cookies, muffins, or other baked goods. If you would be willing to volunteer, please put your name on the sign-up sheet or email or call Debbie Brown in the Church Office. An email will be sent at the beginning of the month to those who are providing snacks for that month.

CHURCH STAFF

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Services

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