

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
Wind, Fire, and Spirit!*

*The Lord's Day
Day of Pentecost
Wind, Fire, and Spirit!
Nine o'clock 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 Prologue¹

Pentecost always offers the reminder that God is unimaginably powerful. God created the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in it. Yet we seem not to believe in that power when we gather for worship. We sit down in an orderly fashion, stand and sit at the proper times, sing hymns, listen quietly during the sermon, drink some decaf coffee, and then go home. The writer, Annie Dillard had this to say about that: “Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us to where we can never return.”¹

Gathering Music

The Proclamation

The Spirit of Pentecost has descended upon all flesh!

The Holy Spirit has come upon all who dream of the realm of God on earth!

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Music for Contemplation
The Lighting of the Altar Candles
The Gathering

On this Day of Pentecost, we have gathered in this sacred space to worship the One whose Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh! Let all the assembled rejoice!

Fill us with your Spirit, that we might rejoice in God, blessing the Lord, that we might see visions and dream dreams just like the faithful of old!

Come before the One who truly satisfies our thirst, the One who saves us when we call! Let all the assembled of the Holy One sing praises unto God!

We will sing to the Lord as long as we live! We will sing praises to God with all our being!

Let us worship God!

The Choral Introit

You Are Welcome

J. Paul Williams, Joseph Martin

Chancel Choir

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of new wine, wind and flame, pervasive Spirit, we have gathered to bless the Lord in this sacred place, to rejoice in you and to praise your holy name; fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might have the dream and the vision of all that is possible among us and in the world around us; pour out your Holy Spirit on all flesh this day, on all your sons and daughters, that we might forever serve you in the name of the one who baptizes us with the salvation that only comes from God; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*The Opening Hymn (insert) *On Pentecost the Spirit Came*

MELITA

*The Litany of Praise

How manifold are your works, O Lord! Yonder is the sea, great and wide, innumerable creeping things abounding, living things both great and small!

All praise to God, in whose wisdom all things are made, all creatures that fill the earth, inhabiting all creation!

All things are created through the Holy Spirit! Sing to the Lord while you have being, your meditations be pleasing to God! May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

All praise to the Holy, whose hands are open, who fills the earth with good things!

Sing to the Lord as long as you live, the One who looks upon the earth causing it to tremble, the One who touches the mountains making them smoke!

All praise to the Creator, rejoicing in the Holy One! Let every soul bless the Lord! 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 ever shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Call to Confession²

We can say the words that come with Pentecost: spirit, wind, fire. We can claim an interest in knowing the God of all creation. We can be dreamers manifesting a vision of God's realm in our midst. But how much time have we devoted to this quest? How open are we to God's unpredictable summons and direction? In the silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession³

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of Pentecost, we are frightened by strange tongues and people out of control, disturbed by their bizarre histrionics. By nature, we want to manage our own lives and assure our own safety. We are afraid that you will ask more of us than we are willing to risk. We do not want others to consider us strange or fanatical, and so we refuse to take any risk that might embarrass our sensibilities. Like most people, we are skeptical of dreams and visions. It is difficult to trust some people. You ask us to love. We want to believe, but how can we know that you are more than our collective imagination, a hope we cling to in our despair?

The Assurance of Pardon⁴

Beloved faith community, hear the good news of Pentecost! God comes unexpectedly to those willing to wait and listen and trust. The Holy Spirit amazes and astonishes even those who wait expectantly. There is more to life than the things we can see, and more in the things we see than our eyes can discern. So, too, God is more than we can know or think. Even now, the Holy Spirit is resting on you and on this beloved faith community, this local outpost of God's people. Do not be afraid!

Thanks be to God!

The Response (insert)

Father, I Adore You

Terrye Coelho Strom, MARANATHA

The Witness from the Christian Scriptures

ACTS 2:1-21

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 Response: PSALM 104

CHRISTMAS

*O Lord, how marvelous your works; your wisdom, without peer!
The richest blessings heav’n can boast you deign to show us here!
You deign to show us here!*

*The sea is filled from shore to shore with creatures great and small!
The minnows teem the tide with whales! God’s care extends to all!
God’s care extends to all!*

*They wait for God to give them food, who dwell across the land!
And in the season of God’s grace they feed from God’s own hand!
They feed from God’s own hand!*

*The absence of the Lord gives rise to stubborn, faithless fears!
God’s Spirit, feeble life renews! God’s breath can dry our tears!
God’s breath can dry our tears!*

*Your glory, Lord, always endures, your mercy, all our days!
O may we never cease to fill your courts with songs of praise?
Your courts with songs of praise?*

The Witness from the Gospels

JOHN 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.” As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified!

The Gospel for today!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Drink This!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

*The Benediction and Blessing

To our guests! At your choosing, we invite you to join us in a long-standing tradition at First Congregational United Church of Christ as we form a circle as one, joining hands and singing together our Fellowship Song.

*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 Reflection

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

*The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today
are given by Tom and Barbara Helmick in memory of
those who have given their lives in service to our country.*

Lector: Sandra Mettler

Ushers: Mike Mettler and Carlton Schroeder

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.

¹Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters* (New York: Harper and Row, 1982), pp. 40-41.

²⁻⁴Reprinted by permission United Church Press from *Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A*, by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1998 by United Church Press.

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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