

Pentecost

May 23rd 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship [Susanna]

from Acts 2; Joel 2:28

One: In the last days, says God, when great wonders will occur,

All: I will pour out my spirit on all people.

One: On the very first Pentecost, to begin my church, God says,

All: I will pour out my spirit on all people.

One: On this Pentecost, among this very church, God says,

All: I will pour out my spirit on all people.

One: God's Holy Spirit is here among us.

May we feel the spark of her fire, the rush of her wind.

All: May our visions and dreams be of justice

and mercy for all God's creation;

May we prophesy and see God's vision

of a new heaven and a new earth.

One: May our anxious nerves be remove that prevent our calling God's name.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Pour out your peace on all your people!

Hymn 66

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (vrs. 1)

PENTECOST

Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.

Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

Call to Confession [Forrest]

from Romans 8:26-27

When we don't know how or what to pray, the Holy Spirit knows. When all we can muster are sighs and groans, the Spirit knows those also. When we feel that we aren't even worthy to

approach God, the Spirit goes before us and with us and God welcomes us with open arms. Assured of this promise, let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God of Love, we confess
that we have failed to live into your ways.
We have failed to trust you in our lives.
We have failed to use the gifts of your Spirit
to further your kingdom in this world.
Forgive us for our shortcomings.
Forgive us when we have focused on our own gain,
on our own security and well-being,
and neglected your call for justice in the world.
Forgive us, and move us
into Your ways of love, justice, and mercy.
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon [Susanna]

People of God, sisters and brothers in Christ, the Spirit of God's truth has come upon creation and upon you, to interpret the mysteries of eternal time. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to be at peace with one another because of God's mercy. It is by the profound gift of God in Christ that we can know and joyfully declare this good news:

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination of God's Word [Forrest]

Ever-present God, send your Spirit among us once again. Just as long ago you inspired, astonished, and uplifted the people, come now to speak your astounding words to our hearts. Fill our ears with the sound of your breath, fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in others, fill our lives with a quest for your peace and justice. In the name of Christ Jesus, **Amen.**

First Reading Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

Voice 1 [Susanna]

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Voice 2 [Forrest]

⁵There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. ⁷They were surprised and amazed, saying,

Voice 1

“Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? ⁸How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language?”

Voice 2

¹²They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other,

Voice 1

“What does this mean?”

Voice 2

¹³Others jeered at them, saying,

Voice 1

“They’re full of new wine!”

pause

Voice 1 still

¹⁴Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared,

Voice 2

“Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! ¹⁵These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! ¹⁶Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷*In the last days, God says,*

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

¹⁸*Even upon my servants, men and women,*

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

Voice 1

¹⁹*I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,*

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

²⁰*The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,*

before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
²¹ *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

Hymn

Epistle Reading Romans 8:22-27

²² We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. ²³ And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. ²⁴ We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will.

Sermon "Nevertheless: Hope!"

Responding to the Word

Hymn 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (vrs.1)

HERE I AM

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

Affirmation of Faith

Church Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Dedicating our Gifts

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Charge & Benediction

Blessing

Postlude