

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship Service
May 31, 2020

WRAC 19/188
Sun: 11:30 am
Tues: 9:00 am/6:00 pm
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PRELUDE

Jane Kochis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENTECOST, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of wind and fire, embolden us this day to receive your power. Help us to proclaim the wondrous things that you have done and continue to do in our lives. Give us strength and courage to share the good news of your love and your presence. We turn to you in reflection and prayer. (Time of silent reflection)

Lord God, **you know us too well. You know that we can be like the disciples following the crucifixion and even the resurrection where we hide from and mutter about rather than proclaim the power of your love. The world is a difficult place. We fear so much. We want people to like us, and so we hold back on the proclamation of our faith. We do not want to offend anyone. But your love and presence are not offensive. They are empowering and healing. Your resurrection brings love and new life to us. The day of Pentecost asks us to share more fully and deeply this love and new life. Bring your holy fire upon us this day to ignite a spark of joy in our hearts and our voices. Bring the power of your rushing wind through our spirits that we may be turned in new directions for service and witness. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hear the good news of Pentecost – you are filled! You are being filled! God's awesome love is given to you, even when you fear or are unsure of your faith. Know that God is with you. Know that the love and grace and courage of God is in you. Hallelujah and Amen!

HYMN

God of the Sparrow, #740

**God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?**

**God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?**

**God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?**

**God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?**

**God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?**

**God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Together we pray: **O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

TIME FOR YOUTH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

READING

Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

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

¹⁷In 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.

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

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

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil, #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 7:37-39

³⁷On the last day of the festival [of Booths], the great day, while Jesus was standing [in the temple], he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and 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.'" ³⁹Now 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.

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Dahl

HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness, #396

(refrain) **Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing: "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." (refrain)**

**You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (refrain)**

**You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (refrain)**

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. (refrain)**

CONFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the source of all life, wholeness, and love. We believe that God is revealed in Jesus Christ. We believe that in his life, Jesus reveals God in grace, mercy, forgiveness, and justice, and that in his death, Jesus reveals God's determined presence in the world even in the face of hatred, violence, and pain. We believe that in his resurrection, Jesus reveals God calling us to abundant life both now and forever; life beyond our fearful and fragile imaginations. We believe that God lives among us, within us, and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God moves us to be together in communities of faith, hope, and love. We believe these things not out of certainty but out of faith; as one who trusts in the reality of God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Light the Fire, Bethel Singers

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING OF HEALING AND WHOLESNESS

May God bless you with the healing power of the Holy Spirit. May God forgive you your sins, release you from suffering, and restore you to wholeness and strength. In the power of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind, #400

**God of the tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort; Past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!**

**God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth, kindle us to speak your truth!**

**God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!**

**God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom's work, claim us for your kingdom's work!**

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen. Live the good news. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE