



Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024

*Old First Presbyterian Church
Huntington, New York*



To all who live joyfully and long to share their excitement ... to all who mourn and need comfort ... to all who are weary and need rest ... to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love ... to all who pray or are in need of prayer ... to all who sin and need a Savior ... to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world ... Old First Presbyterian Church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says ... WELCOME!



All hymns and Scriptures are printed in today's order of worship, or you may look them up in the pew Bibles and hymnals. Large print versions of each are available with the usher.

*** The congregation is invited to stand in body or spirit and speak items printed in bold.**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, O Holy Spirit.

All: Come as Holy Fire and burn among us.

One: Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us from within.

All: Come as Holy Light and lead us out of the darkness.

One: Come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance.

All: Come as Holy Power and strengthen us in our weakness.

One: Come as Holy Life and dwell in each of our hearts and lives.

All: Convict us, convert us, consecrate us;

set us free from the service of ourselves

to live as your humble servants in the world.

One: Inspired by the presence of the Holy Spirit at work among us,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together.

*HYMN 289

On Pentecost They Gathered

*On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing inspired each person there.*

*The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.*

*God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.*

*O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.*

Text: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: *Neuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847
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PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Holy God, from our scattered lives, we gather to praise you, for you are great and wonderful. With joyful hearts, we celebrate the ongoing work of your Spirit. At the dawn of creation, your Spirit brought forth life. Over the centuries, your Spirit called prophets and teachers to proclaim your love and justice. Through the flames of Pentecost, your Spirit gave birth to the church with energy and wonder. Today, your Spirit brings hope and renewal, here and everywhere. Use this time of worship to transform us by your Spirit, that we may become more faithful followers of Jesus, the Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God of wind and flame, you poured out your Holy Spirit to guide your disciples at Pentecost, inspiring Jesus' followers to do great things in his name and empowering your church with gifts for ministry. We confess today how often we lack that same courage, resisting the guidance of your Spirit, because the challenge to change and grow makes us fearful. Forgive us. Renew us. Stir in our hearts, transforming who we are and directing who we shall become. Send your Spirit to blow on the embers of our faith, reigniting the fires of our passion for ministry. Move us, change us, and shape us, we pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ, amen.

DECLARATION OF GRACE

One: Hear and believe this promise of the Good News of the Gospel:
If anyone is in Christ Jesus, they are a new creation!
The old life has passed away and the new life has begun!

All: **May we trust that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live the gift of new life in the power of the Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God! Amen!**

***RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING (HYMN 292)**

As the Wind Song

*As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God, as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God.*

*Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world, as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God.*

*As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God, as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world, as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.*

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 2004; Chinese trans. Ee Suen Wong, 2005

Music: Swee Hong Lim, 2004

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***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Please turn to those around you and share the peace of Christ.

Please share signs and words of Christ's peace with those worshipping near you.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Spirit of God, at Pentecost you established a clear direction for the church and new ways for Jesus' followers to listen and speak to one another. Speak through these Scriptures today, opening our hearts once more to your Living Word in Christ Jesus, our Savior. Energize, empower, and transform us, so that we may encourage one another to renew our commitment to sharing our faith, hope, and love with others. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 9 in pew Bible)

Genesis 11:1-9 [NRSVUE]

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and fire them thoroughly."

And they had brick for stone and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”

⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, “Look, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”

⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth, and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

FIRST NEW TESTAMENT READING (p. 158 in pew Bible)

Romans 8:18-27 [NRSVUE]

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND NEW TESTAMENT READING (p. 119 in pew Bible)

Acts 2:1-21 [NRSVUE]

¹ 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 people 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, “Fellow Jews 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.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

"Reverse the Curse!"

*HYMN 287

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

*Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading; fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing; help us to follow you.*

(Refrain)

*Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*Come to teach us; come to nourish those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful; may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.*

(Refrain)

*Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.*

(Refrain)

*Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.*

(Refrain)

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.

Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.

(Refrain)

Text: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1968

Music: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; arr. Egil Hovland, 1993

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith - PC(USA)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Throughout today's prayer, please listen for an invitation to lift silent prayers before God, then join in praying together as follows:

One: Wind of the Spirit, blow through your people with power,

All: Refreshing and renewing our faith, hope, and love.

**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.**

DISCERNING GOD'S CALL TO ACTION

The Day of Pentecost celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit, poured out on the Church of Jesus Christ and all believers, empowering Christ's followers to go out into the world to love and serve God faithfully. May we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God with a humble desire to strengthen the ministry and mission of the Church of Jesus Christ, so that our witness may continue to flourish, wherever the Spirit may lead us.

OFFERTORY

"All the Praise of a Lifetime" by Phill McHugh & John Elliot
Sanctuary Choir

If you would like to offer a financial gift during today's worship service, please do so by placing your gift in one of the two wooden boxes, conveniently located at both Sanctuary entrances.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy Spirit of grace and power, bless these gifts of time, talent, and treasure, given in faithful obedience to your Word, so that each one may accomplish great things in the name of Jesus. We offer you the gift of ourselves, so that our lives may proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in thought, word, and deed, this day and every day. Amen.

***HYMN 291**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

(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.
When they were confounded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

(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 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 the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

(Refrain)

Text: James K. Manley, 1975, alt.

Music: James K. Manley, 1976

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***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Come, O Lord, be with us. Fill us with joy and thanksgiving.
May our hearts, flow with peace. Come with your love and surround us.
Friendship and love, may they bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever.
Bless us now. Bless our friends. Bless all people forever.

***POSTLUDE**
