



• See, I am doing a •
NEW THING!
• Now it springs up; •
**DO YOU NOT
Perceive It?**

ISAIAH 43:19 (NIV)

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 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 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)

*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 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)

*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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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 resurrection, hope, and new life, here and everywhere. Use our worship to transform us by your Spirit, that we may become more faithful followers of Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God of wind and flame, you poured out your Spirit to refresh and renew your people, inspiring Jesus' followers to do great things in his name and empowering your church with gifts for ministry. We confess that we often lack the courage to do the same, resisting the call 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 fan the embers of our faith, reigniting our hearts to perceive opportunities for revitalized 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 eternal 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!

***HYMN 447**

We Are Forgiven (sung twice)

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

(Repeat)

Text: Traditional liturgical text

Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1995

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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, joy, and love. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING (p. 119 in pew Bible)

Acts 2:1-18, 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.*

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 672 in pew Bible)

Isaiah 43:1-19 [NRSVUE]

¹ But now thus says the LORD,
who created you, O Jacob,
who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

² **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.**

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ **Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.**

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ **I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—**

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

⁸ **Bring forth the people who are blind yet have eyes,
who are deaf yet have ears!**

⁹ Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.

Who among them declared this
and foretold to us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
and let them hear and say, "It is true."

¹⁰ **You are my witnesses, says the LORD,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am God.**

**Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.**

¹¹ I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no savior.

¹² **I am the one who declared and saved and proclaimed,
not some strange god among you;
you are my witnesses, says the LORD, and I am God.**

¹³ Indeed, since that day I am the Lord;
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
I work, and who can hinder it?

¹⁴ **Thus says the LORD,
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
For your sake I will send to Babylon
and break down all the bars,
and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation.**

¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.

¹⁶ **Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,**

¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ **Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.**

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“Now It Springs Forth!”

*HYMN 76

Do Not Be Afraid

(Refrain)

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you:
by your name I called you for my own.*

*Look up, a new thing I am doing;
it springs forth; look and see it grow.
Through wilderness I'll make a level highway;
through deserts, make streams and rivers flow.*

(Refrain)

*I am God, who blots out your transgressions;
for my own sake I do not chide or blame.
Only this much I ask, that you love me
and seek me and honor my name.*

(Refrain)

*The Lord, the Holy One of Israel
has promised to lead us on our way,
and we who love and worship God our Maker
will listen to hear the Spirit say:*

(Refrain)

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you:
by your name I called you for my own.*

Text: Joy F. Patterson, 2004

Music: Sally Ann Morris, 2008

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith - PC(USA), 1983

**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: Refresh and renew our faith, hope, joy, 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

On Pentecost, the gifts of the Holy Spirit were poured out on the Church of Jesus Christ and all believers, empowering Christ's followers to go out into the world to serve God faithfully. As the same Spirit births new ministries today, we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God with a humble desire to strengthen the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ, so that our witness may flourish, wherever and however the Spirit leads.

OFFERTORY

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow" arr. by Mark Hayes
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 praise you for the gift of new ministry, springing forth each day to strengthen our witness in the world. We offer you the gift of ourselves, so that our lives may proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in thought, word, and deed. Amen.

***HYMN 250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

Text and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986

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***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

"Do Not Be Afraid" (Hymn 76, refrain only)

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Chosen and beloved, you are my own.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you:
by your name I called you for my own.*

***POSTLUDE**

This Morning's Worship Leaders:

*Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor
Kerry Degnan, Live-Stream
Jennifer Heinz, Liturgist
Ken Friese, Director of Music
Sanctuary Choir
Dan Degnan, Usher*