

WORSHIP ORDER - St. John's UCC
Pentecost Sunday
May 19, 2024

PRELUDE

"Improvisation on "Veni Creator Spiritus"

Robert Hebble

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Let us rise and greet one another with words of peace and remain standing for our song of centering.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

*SONG OF CENTERING

"In the Bulb There is a Flower" vs. 1

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

P: For God has done wondrous things for us.

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

P: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

P: Help us to boldly proclaim Christ Risen.

L: Let us pray

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. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SONG OF GATHERING

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

NCH#272

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as God in Christ they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us hearts to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.

First Reading
Read by Liturgist

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

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

'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.

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

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

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

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

Choir Anthem

"Sweet Delight, Most Lovely"

Sally Ann Morris

The Celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Covenant

Invitation for the children to come forward (Children seated in front pews)

Act of Baptism (for Calvin, Eva, and Donnell)

Welcome and Address - Pastor Nathan

Prayer over the Baptismal Font - Pastor Nathan

Congregational Assent - Pastor Nathan

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Questions of the Candidates - For Donnell, Pastor Jeffrey

Act of Baptism - For Donnell, Pastor Jeffrey

(Repeat above two items for each person being baptized)

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Celebration by Acclamation by Congregation

The Service of Confirmation and Covenant of Membership

Invitation

Pastor: On this Pentecost Sunday we celebrate that gift of the Holy Spirit that has been sent to each of us and especially on this group of young people who have come to confirm their faith.

We are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. And these young people have found nurture and support in the midst of this family of Christ. Through prayer and study,

working as a group with their mentors,, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Presentation of Confirmands - Mentors to introduce each confirmand
(slides shown with each one)

PASTOR: This is the 2024 Confirmation Class.

Act of Confirmation

Pastor: The journey has been long, but the time has arrived. I invite the class to come forward, kneeling here. And to be confirmed as you are called.

Act of Confirmation: (Pastor Jeffrey, Pastor Nathan, and Mentor place hands on confirmands who are kneeling. They are invested (have stoles placed around them) as they rise)

Strengthen O God, this your servant, Chloe Berg, with your heavenly grace and love that she may continue yours forever; daily increase in her your Holy Spirit, that she may serve you all her life. Bless Chloe now & always. Amen.

O God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted this your servant Mason DeWulf through the water of baptism. Nourish in him the power of your Holy Spirit that he may continue to serve you in the world. Bless Mason this day and always. Amen.

Creator God, strengthen this your servant, Max DeWulf, with your gifts of grace to love and serve as a disciple of Christ. Guide, protect and uphold him that he may continue yours forever. Bless Max this day and always. Amen.

Calvin Little, child of God, may the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, fill you with joy and increase in you the fruits of the Spirit. May Christ's light guide you forward to serve. Dear God, Bless Calvin always. Amen.

May the God of all mercies multiply in you, Eva Little, God's grace, peace and joy, and give you the wisdom to share those gifts in service to others throughout life's journey. Loving God, pour your blessing on Eva every day. Amen.

Confirm O Lord, this your child Owen Tiedt, with your heavenly grace, that he continue yours for ever. Daily increase in him your Holy Spirit wherever life may take him that he may discover new ways to serve You. Dear God, bless Owen this day and always. Amen.

Creator God, strengthen this your servant, Donnell Thomas, with your gifts of grace to love and serve as a disciple of Christ. May many blessings come to you in the years ahead. Loving God guide, protect and uphold Donnell and bless him always. Amen.

Address (any other words pastor wants to add)

Pastor: On this Day of Pentecost, we welcome also Marcus Little - who will be covenanting with us and joining the Body of Christ at St. John's United Church of Christ.

BILL NEWSOM INTRODUCES MARCUS

Questions to the Candidates

Pastor Nathan, to those joining: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple for God.

Marcus, Chloe, Mason, Max, Calvin, Eva, Owen and Donnell do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your model for faith and behavior, and as our Lord and Savior?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Confirmands: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Confirmands: I promise, with the help of God.

PASTOR: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith and proclaim you members of St. John's United Church of Christ.

Words of Welcome

PASTOR: I invite Ben Tiedt, moderator of our church to lead us in the welcome/

Ben: Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ with these young people. Let us stand to do this.

Congregation to New Members:

Donnell, Owen, Eva, Calvin, Max, Mason, Chloe, and Marcus - we promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. We, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, welcome you with joy into our communion and fellowship. We pledge to you our support, our help and our prayers, that you may evermore increase in the knowledge and love of God. We promise, with God's help, to walk with you in Christian love, to aid you as we can, and to bind ourselves together in the common task of building here upon this earth the realm of God. Welcome friends, we rejoice and celebrate your presence among us.

CELEBRATION by Congregational acclamation

Dismiss Children via Baptismal Remembrance

*SONG OF RESPONSE

"Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us"

NCH#264

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, con - firm us in the
 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, con - sole us, come as
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, re - new us, come your -
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, ful - fill us, you the

truth that Christ makes known; We have faith and un - der -
 ad - vo - cate to plead; Lov - ing Spir - it stand be -
 self to make us live; Make us ho - ly through your
 love of Three in One; Bring our lives to full com -

stand - ing through your help - ing gifts a - lone.
 side us, grant in Christ the help we need.
 pres - ence, ho - ly through the gifts you give.
 ple - tion through your work in us be - gun.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pastor*

Pastor: ... We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us,
 Saying together,

People: **Our Father, in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread;
 and forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
 are yours now and forever.
 Amen.**

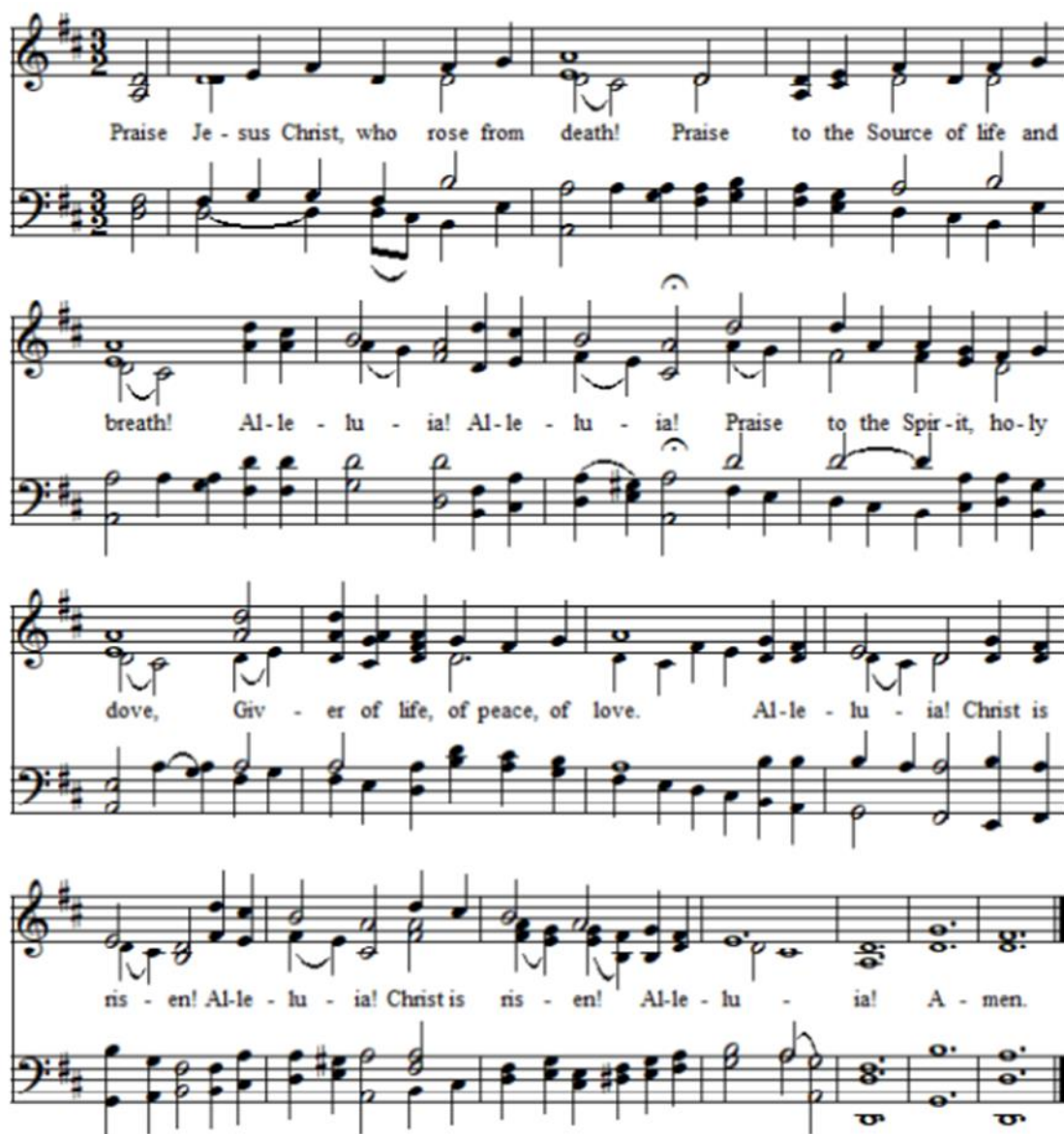
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING *Pastor*

Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

OFFERTORY

Easter Doxology



Praise Je - sus Christ, who rose from death! Praise to the Source of life and
breath! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to the Spir - it, ho - ly
dove, Giv - er of life, of peace, of love. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is
ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

*CHARGE

Liturgist:

Liturgist

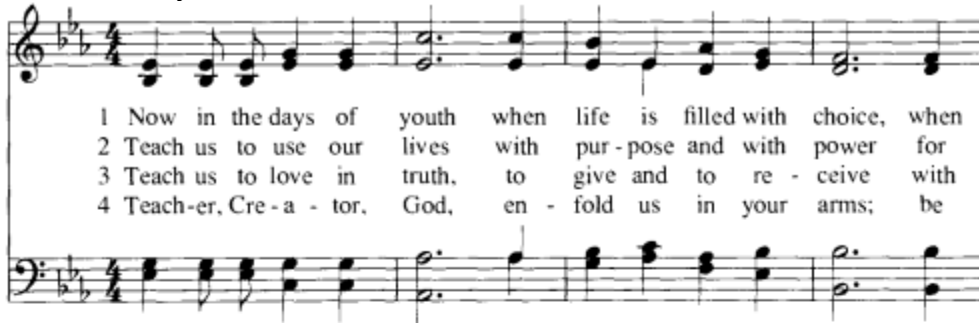
Go out into the world
and trust in the faithfulness of God.
Speak truth. Embody compassion.
Live simply. Love recklessly.
Transform the world through the power of hope.

People: *We go in peace to love and serve God
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

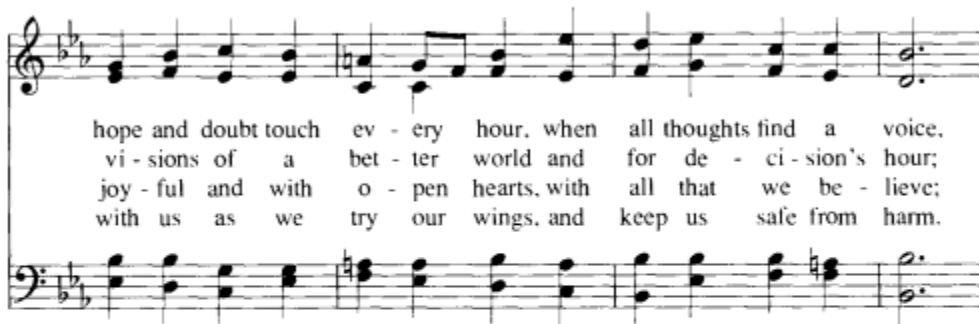
*SONG OF PARTING

“Now In The Days of Youth”

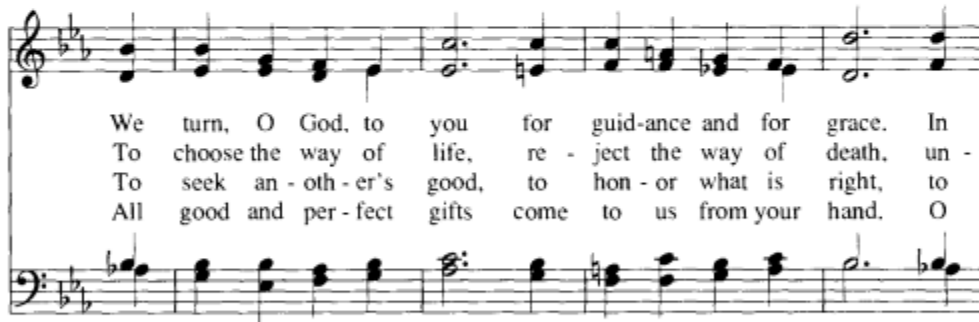
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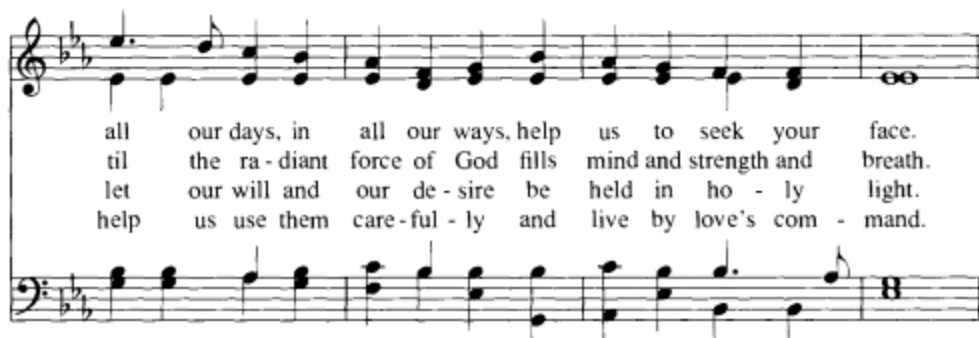
1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re - ceive with
4 Teach - er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be



hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when all thoughts find a voice,
vi - sions of a bet - ter world and for de - ci - sion's hour;
joy - ful and with o - pen hearts, with all that we be - lieve;
with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.



We turn, O God, to you for guid - ance and for grace. In
To choose the way of life, re - ject the way of death, un -
To seek an - oth - er's good, to hon - or what is right, to
All good and per - fect gifts come to us from your hand. O



all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.
til the ra - diant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.
let our will and our de - sire be held in ho - ly light.
help us use them care - ful - ly and live by love's com - mand.

*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

POSTLUDE:
“Sonata on the First Tone”

Jose Lidon