May 23, 2021
Pentecost Sunday

Our Mission: To embody God’s love for all by living an active faith in service to others.

We Gather to Affirm God’s Presence in Our Lives
May the God we sing to, pray to, and speak to throughout the day bless you and keep you safe.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP
L: Give thanks to God, for God is good. God’s steadfast love endures forever.
All: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. Heal us. Make us whole.
L: Come Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts with your love.
All: Fill our minds with your peace.

HYMN
Let Every Christian Pray  NCH 261

SCRIPTURE READING  Genesis 11: 1-9
Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 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.” The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. 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. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 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.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, Maker and Creator, we come before you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have preferred our way to Christ’s way; we have disobeyed your commandments; and we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. Forgive us, restore in us the knowledge of who we are, and make us alive to serve you in faith, obedience, and joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENCE (be as specific as you wish)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. (UCC Book of Worship)

PRAISE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

THE 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 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

CHORAL AMEN

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2: 1-8

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 nation 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?
PENTECOST  a sonnet by Malcolm Guite, from his collection *Sounding the Seasons*  
published by Canterbury Press (used by permission)

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

HYMN  On Pentecost They Gathered verses 1-2  NCH 272

SERMON  In Our Own Languages

HYMN  Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us  verses 1-2  NCH 267

BENEDICTION

PRAYER  
Almighty God, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, without  
which whoever lives is counted as dead before you. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING THE CONGREGATION TODAY  
Ministers: All of Us  
Pastor: Alan McNamara  
Organist: Travis Erikson  
Singers: Grace Klonoski, Ashley Kelly, Brian Kowalski  
Liturgist: Jan Graefen  
Video:  
Audio: Tom Spielman  
Sexton: Tom Spielman
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Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us, Jamie Alford, 1979, alt., © 1995 The New Century Hymnal, All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License # 737648-A. All rights reserved.

Let Every Christian Pray

Fred Pratt Green, 1970; rev. 1994

1 Let ev’ry Christian pray, this day and ev’ry day,
2 The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth
3 Only the Spirit’s power can fit us for this hour:

Come, Holy Spirit, come! Was not the church we love
to seek and save the lost: God never has withdrawn,
come, Holy Spirit, come! Unite, instruct, inspire

Come, Holy Spirit, come! Com-mis-sioned from above?
since that tremen-dous dawn, the gifts of Pentecost.
and fill us with your fire: come, Holy Spirit, come!
On Pentecost They Gathered

Acts 2:1–24, 32–47

Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993

1. 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 glowing inspired each person there.

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

3. 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.

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

1. Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with Pentecostal power; give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour. Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone, still the church is you have led us all the way, still in presence. Three in One: what mystery! We would sing our called to mission that God’s love shall be made known. move before us, fire by night and cloud by day, loud hosannas now and through eternity.

2. We would raise our alleluias for the grace of former years; for tomorrow’s unknown pathway, hear, O God, our humble prayers. In the church’s pilgrim journey glorify your holy name. Good Creator, Savior, Spirit, you have led us all the way, still in presence. Three in One: what mystery! We would sing our called to mission that God’s love shall be made known. move before us, fire by night and cloud by day, loud hosannas now and through eternity.

3. Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of help us face each crucial hour. Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone, still the church is you have led us all the way, still in presence. Three in One: what mystery! We would sing our called to mission that God’s love shall be made known. move before us, fire by night and cloud by day, loud hosannas now and through eternity.

Act 2:1–36; Exod. 13:18–22; Ps. 118:19–29

Janie Alford, 1979; alt.