

First Congregational United Church of Christ
May 28, 2023



Pentecost by Mary Jane Miller

Pentecost Sunday

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: **INSERT** Liturgist: Jenny Delfs

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship

People who love languages: **Buenos Dias! This is the day the Lord has made.**

People who are learning a new language: **We come to find God's promise of shalom.**

People who speak more than one: **Bonjour! Let us rejoice and be glad.**

People who listen: **To God, the Creator of all things and beings, we say miigwech!**

Opening Hymn #42 - "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories ever echoing,
The triumphs of God's grace.

2 My gracious Savior and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
Is music in the sinner's ears,
Is life, and health, and peace.

4 Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age,
The church in earth and heaven

Words of Lament

God who blessed us with many languages, even in our own society we fail to understand one another speaking the same language. We are quick to assume the worst and don't take the time to listen and reflect... Give us pause, Eternal God, and help us listen to understand and speak gently in response. Amen.

Time of Silence

Blessing of the Earth Psalm 104 (Based on)

One: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all, the earth is full of your creatures.

Many: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both great and small.

All: These look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

One: When you send forth your spirit/breath, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

Many: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring food from the earth.

All: The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon God planted. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows it time for setting. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

“Pentecostal Hour” by Mark DeBolt

*No zephyr soft
but cyclone strong
bore thoughts aloft
in windy song.*

*No flicker mild
but flames of red
danced hot and wild
upon each head.*

*And so fierce was
our thundering word
in languages
of all who heard,*

*all knew it meant
the Spirit's power.
This was our Pent-
ecostal hour.*

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #261 - “Let Every Christian Pray”

1 Let every Christian pray,
This day and every day,
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Was not the church we love
commissioned from above?
Come Holy Spirit, come!

2 The Spirit brought to birth
The church of Christ on earth
To seek and save the lost:
God never has withdrawn,
Since that tremendous dawn,
The gifts at Pentecost.

3 Only the Spirit's power
Can fit us for this hour:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Unite, instruct, inspire,
And fill us see your fire:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture - 1 Corinthians 12:3b-12 (The Message)

12:3b For instance, by using your heads, you know perfectly well that the Spirit of God would never prompt anyone to say “Jesus be damned!” Nor would anyone be inclined to say “Jesus is Master!” without the insight of the Holy Spirit.

4-11 God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:
wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.

12-13 You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you’re still one body. It’s exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

2nd Scripture - Acts 2:1-21 (Common English Bible)

2 When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. 4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

5 There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. 7 They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? 8 How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” 12 They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” 13 Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

14 Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! 15 These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! 16 Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

- 17 In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders
will dream dreams.
- 18 Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
- 19 I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.
- 20 The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
- 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Children's Message Tongues of Fire
Choir Anthem World Peace Prayer
Message Amazed and Astonished

Musical Reflections

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, 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. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Closing Hymn- "The Body of Christ" (See Insert)

CHORUS:

If we grow together, if we move with each other,
A body of Christ are we.
We each have a part, we each are a member,
The body of Christ are we.

VERSE 1:

We are born to hear, born to see, born to be a child of God.
We are born to touch, born to walk, upon God's path we all will trod.

VERSE 2:

There are different gifts, different works, but given by the Spirit from above.
Toward one goal, one... common purpose, to serve our God with all our love.

VERSE 3:

God has arranged us in, one body, indispensable all are we.
If one is honored, or...one suffers, we share it together, a family.

Benediction

Sending Music