



Trinity United Church of Christ

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Trinity United Church of Christ

May 19, 2024

One Service 10:30AM Worship

Seventh Sunday after Easter

Pentecost Sunday

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

*If this is your first time with us, or if you have come to this sacred space your entire life, we are glad to be on this journey of faith with you. Trinity believes that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!** To enhance your worship experience, we have large print bulletins and hearing support devices available.*

Please ask an usher or greeter for assistance.

Enter to worship today but stick around to see what God is doing in this place!

*Congregational responses in **bold print**. * Denotes standing as you are able.*

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TIME OF SHARING AND GREETING

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!**

**Together, let us praise our Triune God,
the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.**

PRELUDE – “Breath on Me, Breath of God” with “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” - L. Larson

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Holy Spirit, come amongst us!

Inspire our worship, strengthen our faith.

Holy Spirit, stay with us!

Deepen our fellowship, support our sharing.

Holy Spirit, challenge our discipleship!

Encourage us to venture out, give us the compassion of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, work through us!

Touch the downhearted with hope, move the dispirited with Love.

***HYMN #272 “On Pentecost They Gathered”**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Great Spirit, we come here from the four directions
to celebrate the amazing gift of your presence.
May we experience this day as our first church elders did
at their Pentecost. Come, blessed God!
Breathe on us with life-giving energy. Amen.**

***RESPONSE TO PRAYER #282 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" (v1)**

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Upon the mountain my God spoke,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; looked so fine;
I asked my God if all were mine*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Quite often we forget the connection between God,
our neighbors, creation and us.
Let us take time to reflect on our broken relationships.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of every tribe and nation, our gifts are yours to use,
yet we often keep them for ourselves,
hiding them from one another and from you.
We confess that we know we cannot hide from you,
that our gifts are for giving away in your world for your work.
Forgive us for ruining our spirits to frivolous things.
Forgive us for forgetting what integrity means.
Allow your Spirit to restore our intentions and our souls.**

(MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER)

#283 "Spirit of the Living God"

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One fact remains that does not change:
God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always.
This is the good news that brings us new life. Amen.

ANTHEM

“When I Can Read My Title Clear”

D. Forrest

Senior Choir

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURES

Acts 2:1-21 (Adapted)

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound of rushing wind filled the building. Then like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks and many spoke in different languages. There were many Jews in Jerusalem who came from faraway lands for the festival. When they heard the rushing wind, they came running. One by one they heard their mother tongue and were amazed when they heard foreigners speaking their own language. As they stood listening to all of the different babble, they joked among themselves that the disciples must have been drunk on cheap wine. Then Peter stood and spoke: “Fellow visiting Jews, listen carefully and hear this message: These people are not drunk. It is only 9 O’clock in the morning. There was no time for drinking. The prophet Joel announced this would happen. “In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people; your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Young men will see visions and old men will dream dreams. I’ll set signs in the sky above, blood and fire and billowing smoke. The sun will turn black and the moon blood red, and whoever calls out to me, will be saved.

John 15:26-27; 16:4-15

”When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to

your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. ¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

SERMON

“Wait, Watch, Listen!”

PRAYER/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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN #286 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

(Remain Seated)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen**

***CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

In all creation, we see God's vision for the future.
The gifts from creation lead us to build the dreams of God.
With hearts full of hope and souls of gratitude,
let us share our offerings to create the Church of today and tomorrow.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #282 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" (v2)**

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold, it chills the body, not the soul.
There's only one train on this track; it runs to heaven, then right back.*

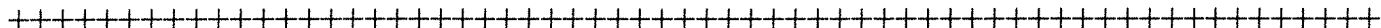
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We delight in your creation, loving God.
We rejoice in your hopes, visions and dreams.
In a Spirit of thanksgiving, we ask that you give us
the courage to take these gifts to build not bury. Amen.**

***HYMN #293 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"**

***FINAL BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**



Today's Worship Elements have been adapted from the following resources::

Led By Love Worship Resources for Year B. Lavon Bayler. United Church Press. Cleveland. 1996.

Before The Amen. Maren and Maria Tirabassi. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2007.

Prayers to Share, Year B. David Sparks. Wood Lakes Books. Kelowna, BC. 2002.

Prelude: *Breath on Me, Breath of God with Holy Spirit, Light Divine.* Music arranged by Lloyd Larson.

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Hymns: *On Pentecost They Gathered.* Words ©1981 Jane Parker Huber from A SINGING FAITH.

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Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness. ©1978 by James K. Manley. All rights reserved. Harmonization ©1993

The Pilgrim Press

Sweet, Sweet, Spirit. Words and Music ©1962 Manna Music, Ltd

Responses:

Anthem: *When I Can Read My Title Clear.* Arranged by Dan Forrest. ©2015 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

Pastor

Julie Strickland

Lay Liturgist

Sara Shank

Organist

John McKay

Senior Choir Director

Mark Luckenbaugh

Percussion

Carl Barrick, Edwind Hamilton

Ushers

M. J. Alleman, Ruby Warren

Greeters

Bonnie Smith

Acolyte

Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Russell Bailey,

Tech Team

Carl Barrick, Suhua Dong, Sue Churchill, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Terry Krietz

On Pentecost They Gathered

Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993

1. On Pen-te-cost they gath-ered quite ear-ly in the day,
a band of Christ's dis-ci-ples to wor-ship, sing, and pray.
A might-y wind came blow-ing, filled all the swirl-ing air,
and tongues of fire a-glow-ing in-spired each per-son there.

2. The peo-ple all a-round them were star-tled and a-mazed
to un-der-stand their lan-guage, as God in Christ they praised.
What un-i-ver-sal mes-sage, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is ris-en to van-quish all our fear.

3. God pours the Ho-ly Spir-it on all who would be-lieve,
on wom-en, men, and chil-dren who would God's grace re-ceive.
That Spir-it knows no lim-it, be-stow-ing life and power.
The church, formed and re-form-ing, re-sponds in ev-ery hour.

4. O Spir-it, sent from heav-en on that day long a-go,
re-kin-dle faith a-mong us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us hearts to lis-ten and tongues a-flame with praise,
so folk of ev-ery na-tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

Acts 2:1–24, 32–47

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

Refrain:

Spir-it, spir-it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness,
call-ing and free, Spir-it, spir-it of rest-less-ness,
stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the wa-ters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the moun-tains from the val-leys of sleep;
And o-ver the e-ons you called to each thing,
“A-wake from your slum-bers and rise on your wings.”

Refrain:

2. You swept through the des-ert, you stung with the sand,
and you goad-ed your peo-ple with a law and a land;
When they were con-found-ed by their i-dols and lies,
then you spoke through your proph-ets to o-pen their eyes.

Refrain:

3. You sang in a sta-ble, you cried from a hill,
then you whis-pered in si-lence when the whole world was still;
And down in the cit-y you called once a-gain,
when you blew through your peo-ple on the rush of the wind.

Refrain:

4. You call from to-mor-row, you break an-cient schemes,
from the bond-age of sor-row the cap-tives dream dreams;
Our wom-en see vi-sions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new de-ci-sions your peo-ple a-rise.

Refrain:

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Doris Akers, 1962; alt.

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir-it in this place,
and I know that it's the Spir-it of the Lord;
there are sweet ex-pres-sions on each face,
and I know they feel the pres-ence of the Lord.

Refrain:

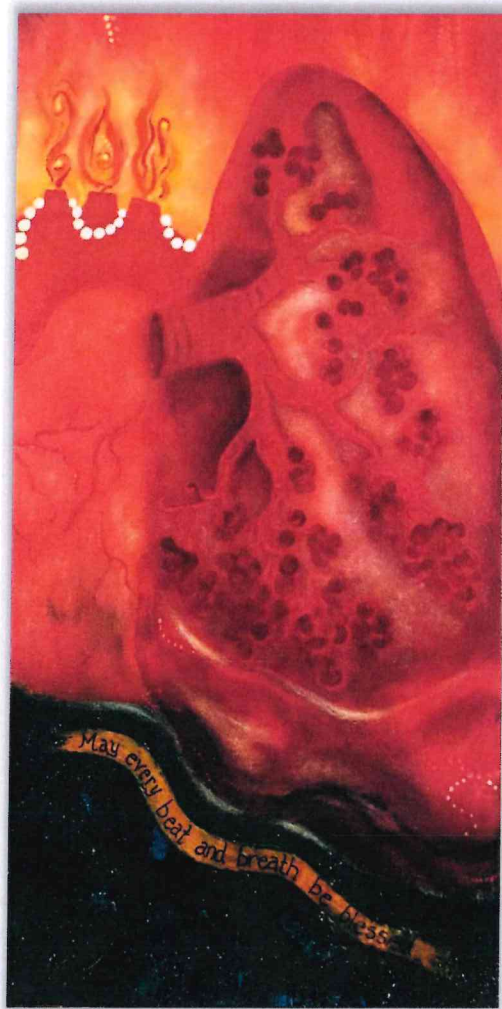
Sweet Ho-ly Spir-it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove,
stay right here with us, fill-ing us with your love;
And for these bless-ings we lift our hearts in praise.
With-out a doubt we'll know that we have been re-vived
when we shall leave this place.

2. There are bless-ings you can-not re-ceive
till you know that Spir-it's full-ness and be-lieve;
you're the one to prof-it when you say,
"I am going to stay with Je-sus all the way."

Refrain:

2 Cor. 3:17-5:5

Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg, PA



Painting by: Kara Young, 2020

May 19, 2024

Sermon

"Wait, Watch, Listen!"

Acts 2:1-21

John 15

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

Pastor

Pentecost is a glorious day of celebration. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit, made evident by the tongues of flame and rushing wind, creates a community of believers empowered to share the Good News of Jesus with the world. News our world so desperately needs. Pentecost is the anniversary of when Jews from all over the world gathered in Jerusalem for a great party and they heard the disciples preaching in their own language, many came to believe that Jesus was God's chosen Messiah. Amid the festive hues, we celebrate the coming of the Spirit and the birthday of the church.

For me, Pentecost is all about unity, an all-inclusive movement shaking faith up and breaking walls down, inviting everything and everyone to be part of God's community. Fire, wind and Spirit dancing about, sprinkling a bit of God's grace everywhere. In this scene, diversity becomes a blessing, not a source of alienation. Instead of a common tongue, one language to rule them all, the Spirit gifts those present with understanding and knowledge that reaches beyond the barriers of human intelligence.

Whether we are witnessing this story with the fresh ears of the first century followers or hearing it again, dressed up in our best red, orange or yellow shirts, our text offers words of hope and inclusion. Jesus declared to his disciples that the Advocate would be with them in his absence. Peter, Christ's rock on which the church stands, spoke the words of the ancient prophet, Joel, to those gathered in Jerusalem:

“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 the young shall see visions, and the old shall dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

In other words, your sons and your daughters will have a word to speak, that life is stronger than death, hope is deeper than despair. Through the power of Christ's resurrection; death will be no more. That resounding word is the gift the Holy Spirit gives us today. In a little while, we will hear a poem penned by Jan Richardson. The verses speak of waiting, watching and listening. In our hurried world, this may seem impossible, but our souls long for the gift of such lingering. The breath

of the Spirit continues to remind us of God's presence within and around us, generations after that first Jerusalem Pentecost.

Four years ago, Kara and I had covid together. She had been struggling to breathe for days, taking medicine, using her inhaler, and still the virus was not moving from her lungs. One night she woke from a dream and went right to an old canvas and started to cover it in black. She said she had to get it all out, the dream that woke her. She switched to oranges, reds, vibrant yellow and painted in bold fast strokes. While she created she told me about her dream, walking inside a huge glowing field where a drumming sound got louder and louder. She realized she was in her own body, the lung tissue turning more pink with each passing moment, the color deepening as the beating continued. As she worked with her brushes she breathed quietly for the first time in weeks. No coughing, no wheezing, no struggling to gather more oxygen. She wasn't fully over the virus, but she had certainly turned a corner toward healing. I am reminded of something my professor of Old Testament at LTS once said, "*We will never be fully alive until we receive the breath*

of God.” Dr. O’Brien was on to something because such cannot summon such breath, cannot create it ourselves: but like a hope that surprises us, we will know when it hits us! The banner on the painting reads, *“May every beat and breath be blessed!”*

God’s Spirit gives life to all things; it is not confined to human experience. God’s Spirit also gives life to us. The Spirit moves within us, interceding between us, giving us wisdom to aim for what is best for us and the world. As we think about the message of Pentecost, we remember that at its core, the fiery winds remind us that God’s Spirit provides presence for the challenging journeys ahead.

Peter told those young believers in the Holy City of Jerusalem that the Spirit helps them make sense of the present. In fact, Peter’s entire Pentecost message offers an explanation of what God is making possible in our lives, even when all hope seems lost.

Jesus has sent us the Spirit to advocate for us in his absence. What does Jesus... the way he lived his life, his death, his resurrection... tell

us about God? Through our birthday celebration of the Church we acknowledge that the breath of God is at work, here and now. Through scripture and prayer and proclamation, experience and relationship, in service and mission: God's holy breath challenges us, comforts, clarifies, and even scares us at times.

Pentecost reassures us that God's Spirit is with us. Whether the original followers or the next generation of disciples, Christ's mission continues in this world. What part will you play? As people of Pentecost, God invites us to experience the fullness of life intended for everyone. To breathe deeply, take in the Spirit, and be changed. The Spirit does not always come to make us comfortable but to make us into a community, in all its searing difficulty and grace.

Fire, wind and Galileans speaking persuasively in many tongues were dramatic signs that God was doing a new thing that would transform the lives of all those present and far beyond, in time and place. Maybe it was a little uncomfortable and a bit frightening, something people would want to explain away, or to contain with cynical

comments blaming it all on drunkenness. But this much is true, many lives were changed on that first Pentecost. God IS still speaking, how will this community of faith allow God's Spirit to change our hearts in response to God's call? **Amen.**

This Grace That Scorches Us
A Blessing for Pentecost Day

Here's one thing you must understand about this blessing: it is not for you alone. It is stubborn about this.

Do not even try to lay hold of it if you are by yourself, thinking you can carry it on your own.

To bear this blessing,
you must first take yourself to a place where everyone does not look like you or think like you,
a place where they do not believe precisely as you believe,
where their thoughts and ideas and gestures
are not exact echoes of your own.

Bring your sorrow.

Bring your grief.

Bring your fear.

Bring your weariness,

your pain, your disgust at how broken the world is,
how fractured, how fragmented by its fighting,
its wars, its hungers, its penchant for power,
its ceaseless repetition of the history it refuses to rise above.

I will not tell you this blessing will fix all that.

But in the place where you have gathered,
Wait; Watch; Listen.
Lay aside your inability to be surprised,
your resistance to what you do not understand.
See then whether this blessing turns to flame on your tongue,
sets you to speaking what you cannot fathom

or opens your ear to a language beyond your imagining
that comes as a knowing in your bones,
a clarity in your heart that tells you

this is the reason we were made:
for this ache that finally opens us,

for this struggle,
this grace that scorches us toward one another
and into the blazing day.

Jan Richardson

from *[Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons](#)*