

WORSHIP GUIDE

DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 23RD, 2021 @ 11A.M.



Revisoning: So All Shall Be Well!

Worship is a time of both shared community and private conversation with God. Let us all come to this sacred space to enjoy both the loving fellowship of our common faith and the prayerful quiet that will allow us all to draw closer to God. We welcome you here at *your* faith community! Please remember to properly wear your face mask at all times inside the church and to socially distance as we continue to navigate the pandemic looking out for one another.

Meditation: "God is nearer to us than our own spirit." ~Julian of Norwich~



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WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

** All who are able may stand*

Gathering Music ✧

"Day by Day/Blessed Assurance"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✧

"On the Holy Mountain"

*Call to Community

One: Spirit of the Living God, dance with us on this day.

All: Come, Whirlwind of Wonder!

One: Sing to the groaning of creation.

All: Come, still small voice of Hope!

One: Enflame us with your passion for justice.

All: Come, Liberator of the Least!

One: Purify us of our grasping greediness.

All: Come, Advocate of selfless living!

One: Silence our gossiping tongues.

All: Come, Harmony of God's Heart!

One: Wind of God, blow through us; Fire of God burn within us;
Tongue of God, speak to us on this day of renewal and birth.

*Pentecost Litany

"My Peace I Leave You" (based on John 15)

O Jerusalem, I am with you. If you love me – keep my commandments and I will give you an advocate, the Spirit of truth, to be forever with you. O people, hear me when I say...

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.

O Jerusalem, you will not see me in a little while, but you will live, because I live. You will not be orphaned, for one day, you will know me, and know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I in you. O people, hear me when I say...

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.

Jerusalem... City for whom I weep – Listen to my voice. People whom I love – Keep my commandments, welcome the spirit that I send. For I am going away, and I am coming to you. O people, hear me when I say...

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.

Rejoice in my going. The world overtakes me, but it has no power over me. I do as my God commands, but I do not go lightly and I leave you not alone. O my people, hear me when I say...

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.

WE MEDITATE UPON GOD'S WORD

Remembering Together

Michael Jones and Pastor Katie

Genesis 1:26-31 (NRSV)

John 3:15:21 (NRSV)

Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV)

We remember with gratitude that God created us.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.'

And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

We remember that God sent Jesus into the world to bring us light and love.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

We remember that God gave his Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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: 'People 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."

The Message

When the Spirit Comes

Contemplative Interlude✠

"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

A Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

Communion Segue ✦

“Wade in the Water”

Invitation to the Table

In the beginning there was only God: the Creator dreamed, giving birth to a vision; the Word spoke, calling the universe into being; the Breath swept through all things, bringing life...

Breathe on us, O Breath of God. Give us the promise of life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the beginning, O God, there was only you. Be our guide, our hope and our joy. As you led your people Israel, as you led Sara and Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, Moses and David, Mary and Joseph, lead us.

Breathe on us, O Breath of God. Send us your light, our hope and our salvation. Send us your Son. Send us Jesus.

In the beginning, O God, there was only you: Creator, Word and Breath. And from that beginning we see our birth. From that beginning we see our salvation. From that beginning we see our source of life.

Come Source of Blessing. Come Christ Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Come to us now.

For the promise of our salvation, the ember of life still burning, is Christ Jesus who comes as one of us, who comes to save us, who sends us the fire of your Spirit, who comes to lead us into the light.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Women: In the beginning there was no world, women and men had not yet been born.

Men: We thank you for creation, for men and women and children.

Women: You made yourself known to your people all down through history.

Men: We thank you for all those who have taught us about you through the Bible.

Women: In the fullness of time you sent us your Son.

Men: We thank you for his teaching and his life of love.

All: Today we follow in the footsteps of those who came before us – people of faith who felt the pressure of the Holy Spirit move them into remarkable places. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

The Story

The Meal ✦

*The Prayer

Loving and awesome God, you care for us and love us no matter who we are. We thank you for the bread and the cup you generously provided. Grant that they will help us to open our ears to the cries of those who are bowed down and oppressed. May they renew in us love and compassion for the stranger. Let us leave this table proclaiming your kingdom of peace and justice for all, as we join our voices together in our worldwide prayer...

*Prayer of Our Savior

**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 and ever. Amen.**

Sending Forth

God is good,
All of the time.

All of the time.

God is good. Go in Peace, beloved friends! Amen.

Prelude to Service ✨

"Rondo" from Sonata No. 8

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!





Pentecost Sunday -Mission Moment

Strengthen the Church Offering

Today is Pentecost, sometimes called the church's birthday. Every church was a new church start at one time and this is the day we recall and celebrate the day we were a new church. In that spirit, many churches receive the Strengthen the Church offering on this day.

"The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults."

Your congregation's offering provides the financial resources for the United Church of Christ to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. Strengthen the Church funds ministry that allows us to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC. Because of your support, new church starts have emerged, congregations have been revitalized, and leadership skills have been enhanced.

To find out more about how your church can Strengthen the Church, visit: <https://www.ucc.org/stc>.

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