



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
May 23, 2021 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

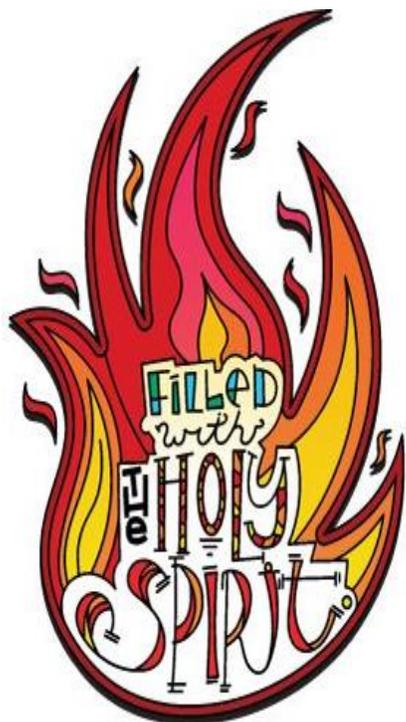
Pentecost Sunday

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader:

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



Pentecost is a major celebration in the church year. Its name is derived from the 50th day after the Passover, a harvest festival also called the Feast of Weeks. As Christians, we celebrate it because of what happened one day long ago at that feast.

Jerusalem was filled with pilgrims and worshipers for Pentecost that year – the year Jesus was crucified. It was overflowing with devout Jews from every part of the world who had come for the festival. The little band of Jesus’ followers was gathered there too, praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit whom Jesus had promised, that they might be empowered for their ministry.

All of a sudden, God’s Holy Spirit came to them with the sound of rushing wind and the appearance of tongues of fire. Perhaps it reminded them of what John the Baptist had proclaimed when he said, “One was coming who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” They rushed into the streets and ecstatically began fulfilling what Jesus had told them earlier, “You will be my witnesses.” Most everyone in the crowd understood Peter when he spoke to them later in Aramaic, but for now, each one heard in their own native language what the disciples were saying. And so, today, we celebrate the gifts of God’s Holy Spirit, the Good News of the Gospel, and Pentecost.

Call to Worship

- L:** God will pour out the Spirit upon all flesh, and our daughter and sons shall prophesy.
P: ***Our old ones shall dream dreams, and our young ones shall see visions.***
A: ***And all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered.***

*Hymn of Praise #429, blue book

I Believe in God Almighty

Sung to tune for Lord, You Give the Great Commission

*I believe in God Almighty, Father of all things that be,
 Maker of the earth and heavens, Keeper of the sky and sea.
 I believe in God’s Son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ,
 Of the Spirit and of Mary, born to bring abundant life.*

*I believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned crucified,
Taken from the cross, was buried – True Life there had truly died.
I believe that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,
Then ascended to God’s right hand. He will come to judge and save.*

*I believe in God’s own Spirit, bonding all the saints within
One Church, catholic and holy, where forgiveness frees from sin.
In the body’s resurrection, for the breaking of death’s chain
Gives the life that’s everlasting, This the faith that I have claimed.*

Prayer of Confession

It is easy to find fault with the church, O God, because we are distracted by its human characteristics. Forgive us for denying ourselves the power of your Spirit, which could do mighty things through the church, in spite of our faults and weaknesses. Send your Spirit upon us with power and enthusiasm, that we may be a vibrant church, proclaiming a living faith in a living Lord. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Hear the Good News: The Holy Spirit has been sent to be our helper.

P: ***The Holy Spirit has been sent to banish our fears, and to give us peace.***

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –

P: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children’s Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 104: 24-34

“O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” –Psalm 104:24 ESV



O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. These all 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. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their

breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works - who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

L: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

P: ***Thanks be to God.***

Second Lesson Acts 2: 1-21*The Coming of the Holy Spirit*

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: '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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon*Peculiar People*

Responding to the Word

***Hymn # 289, red book**

On Pentecost They Gathered



*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.*

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

*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.*

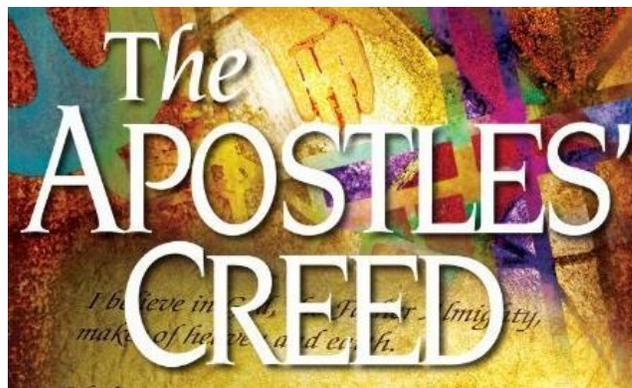
*O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
Rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
So folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.*

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostle's 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 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 the life everlasting. Amen.***



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus:

*I cast all my cares upon you.
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime I don't know what to do,
I cast all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

The Invitation & Prayer of Dedication *We bring our gifts to church, so that our lives and our gifts will be a blessing to others. Dear God, we ask that you consecrate our gift-giving and our lives, so that together, through your church, we may make a difference in the world. May our lives and our church reflect your presence in our midst. Amen.*

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn # 303, red book

*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian
Sung to the tune of Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-sped flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.*

*Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified.
Teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In your tending may all servants learn and live a shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.*

*Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall,
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all
As you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts,
Oversee its life steadfastly, yet not overlook its faults.*

*Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
Help us in our varied callings, your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.*

* Blessing

L: Remember the words of St. Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!

P: *Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.*

L: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

P: *And may the peace of God which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

L: And may the blessings...

*Response

*He Is Lord
He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*