



**New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
May 31, 2020**

**Worship**

**Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown,  
DE 19709**

# The Worship of God

## Pentecost May 31, 2020

### Bulletin to follow the online service

**A Pentecost Story** *The Day When God Made Church* : A Child's First Book About Pentecost  
 Author: Rebekah M. Hutto; Illustrator: Stephanie Haig  
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**Welcome**

Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis

**Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude...**



Do you know the derivation of the word “enthusiasm”? It is particularly significant that we learn this on the Day of Pentecost. It may come as a surprise to many of you to know that this word’s original meaning has to do with having a passion for religion, rather than being passionate or seriously interested in general. A brief explanation of the word’s etymology should clear this up.

The word “enthusiasm” entered the English language around the beginning of the 17th century. It was borrowed from the Greek *enthousiasmos*, meaning “inspiration or possession by a god.” For the first two hundred or so years that it was used in English, *enthusiasm* was primarily employed to refer to beliefs or passions that related to religion. By the beginning of the 18th century, however, the word began to be used to describe having strong feelings or interest in secular matters.

For us modern day disciples of Christ, it is good for us to think of *enthusiasm* as being filled with the Holy Spirit – the gift bestowed on us at Pentecost.

## Preparing to Meet God

### Call to Worship

L: God will pour out the Spirit upon all flesh.

**P: *And our daughters and sons shall prophesy.***

L: Our old ones shall dream dreams,

**P: *And our young ones shall see visions.***

**A: *And all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered.***

### \*Hymn of Praise

*Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth*  
(Sung to tune of #108, *Christ Is Alive!*)

#124

*Spirit of God, unleashed on earth, With rush of wind and roar of flame!  
With tongues of fire saints spread good news; Earth, kindling, blazed its loud acclaim.*

*You came in power, the church was born; O Holy Spirit, come again!  
From living waters raise new saints, Let new tongues hail the risen Lord.*

*With burning words of victory won, Inspire our hearts grown cold with fear,  
Revive in us baptismal grace, And fan our smoldering lives to flame.*

## Meeting God in the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson

John 20: 19-23

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'*

#### 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."

## Sermon

Enthusiastic Disciples

# Responding to the Word

## Hymn

*Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*

*Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading; fashion us all anew.  
It's your leading that we're needing; help us to follow you.*

**Refrain: Come, Come, Come, Holy Spirit, come. (repeat)**

*Come to teach us; come to nourish those who believe in Christ.  
Bless the faithful; may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.*

**Refrain x 2**

*Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.  
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.*

**Refrain x 2**

*Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;  
Turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.*

**Refrain x 2**

*Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.  
Ever grant us zealour fitness, which you alone assure.*

**Refrain x 2**

## 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, that I don't know what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon you.*

## The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts



God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.

# Going Out to Serve



## Closing Hymn

*On Pentecost They Gathered*  
(Sung to the tune for *The Church's One Foundation* #442)

#128

*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 a 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.*

## Blessing

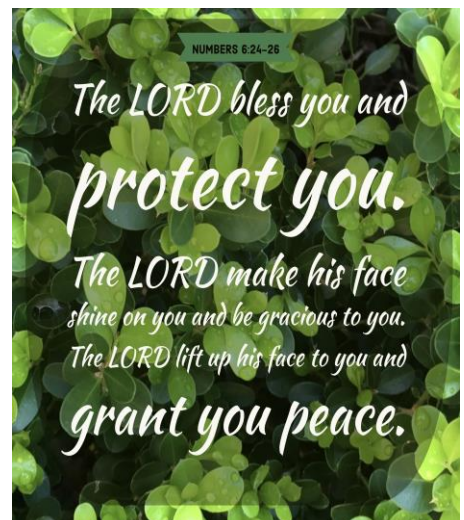
L: Receive now the Holy Spirit,

**P: For we are sent out by the Son, as the Son was sent by God.**

L: Do not travel alone, but go two by two and three by three,

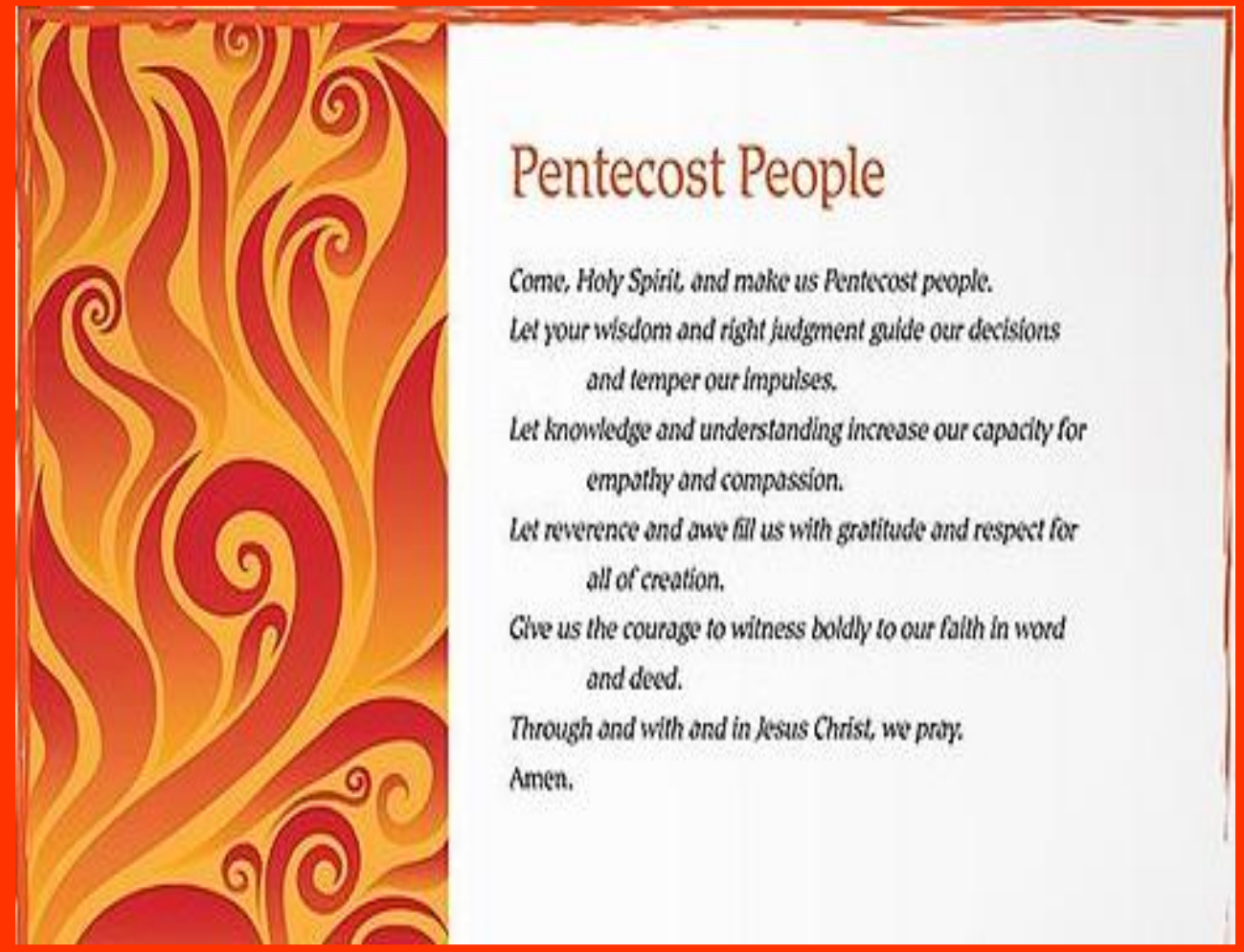
**P: And we will not go with empty hands, for we will carry the peace of God wherever the Spirit leads.**

L: May the blessings ...



**Response***He Is Lord*

*He is Lord, he is Lord. He has risen from the dead, And he is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow, Every tongue confess, That Jesus Christ is Lord.*



## Pentecost People

*Come, Holy Spirit, and make us Pentecost people.  
Let your wisdom and right judgment guide our decisions  
and temper our impulses.  
Let knowledge and understanding increase our capacity for  
empathy and compassion.  
Let reverence and awe fill us with gratitude and respect for  
all of creation.  
Give us the courage to witness boldly to our faith in word  
and deed.  
Through and with and in Jesus Christ, we pray.  
Amen.*