

**“Ask God”
June 5, 2022
PENTECOST**



St. John United Church of Christ
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***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Divine Teacher, whirl around us with your wisdom,
Divine Comforter, encircle us with the peace that comes only from you.

As the Holy Winds fill our lives with dreams,
empower us to live God’s hope in this world.

**As the Holy Fire fills our hearts with visions,
empower us to create a world of justice and peace.**

ALL: May the Divine Gales of this day move us to
know the love of God.

INVOCATION:

Holy Winds of Mystery,
As the dawn breaks forth, your Spirit exhales your
intentions for our world. As new chapters and eras
arise in our lives, your Spirit invites us to wisdom that
only comes from you. Open our souls to the wonders
of your being. Settle our hearts when questions
surround us. Fill our minds with the knowledge that
your Spirit will lead us forward. Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH:**

**Loving God, Divine Comforter,
Peace is absent from our hearts. From pain to grief,
and from turmoil to frustrations, we yearn for what
we lack. We ache for the pains and injustices of this
world to cease. What we forget is to pause and
voice our concerns to you. How can we better
integrate your presence in our lives? When have we
forgotten to include you in our joys and heartaches?
Move us to seek you and speak the burdens of our
hearts to you. May your Spirit refill our souls with
peace. Amen.** Time for silent personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE:

The Spirit of God delivers grace and peace as we move through our journeys and inspires us to connect with God and neighbor to create a world of hope and joy. Amen!

***GLORIA PATRI:**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three- in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING: Acts 2: 1-21

Pentecost 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.*

a. [Acts 2:21](#) [Joel 2:28-32](#)

MESSAGE: “Ask God”

On June 5 we celebrate Pentecost, which some people call the “church’s birthday”, or the beginning of the church. I’ve been wondering, what does it take to start a church?; a clear goal is necessary, with knowledge of what a church should represent; education of how to make that goal a reality and a purpose for the church. For the people starting a church, they need courage, persistence, strength, patience, and energy. Perhaps you could think of a few more attributes. Jesus gives this task to the disciples. From what we have read in all four Gospels in the Bible, do you think the disciples are up to the challenge? I’m not so sure. How about you?

Jesus is very sure. Jesus has all the trust in the world that the disciples will accomplish building the church even if there some bumps in the road. WHY DOES JESUS HAVE SUCH CONFIDENCE IN THESE MEN? BECAUSE THEY ARE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ON PENTECOST. Everything the disciples need will be given and guided to them through the Great Counselor, the Holy Spirit.

Do you think the Holy Spirit can help us as we learn to follow the way of Jesus? Absolutely! We just need to prayerfully ask and it will be given to us. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer.

Our Gracious and ever-loving God, we praise you for all you have done and will continue to do in the future for us and for your world. During this season of spring, you have created green trees and colorful flowers to brighten our days. Thank you.

Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to the disciples and to us, that we may have knowledge and courage to spread the Good News of the Gospel to others.

We remember all the people in the world and in our neighborhoods who are suffering for one reason or another. We pray the people who have much will share with those who have so little.

Be with us as we spend our lives doing will as we learn to love everyone. We pray all these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE:

NCH 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.

REFLECTION ON GIVING:

Because of our love for the Divine Giver, we seek ways to share our love through our treasures, talents, and time. Whether we give in this hour or throughout this week, may we remember that God's Spirit encircles these gifts with hope.

***BLESSING OF THE GIFTS:**

Holy Winds of Excitement,

May the gifts we share today and throughout this week nudge us to dream your dreams. May our giving inspire us to embrace your visions for our world. Holy Spirit, enliven our souls to create your realm of justice and peace on earth. Amen.

***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

HOLY COMMUNION:

On this day of Pentecost,
may the Spirit dance with you!

May the Spirit dance with you as well!

May God's grace be poured into your hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit, to fill our hearts with love.

May God's Word become your language of praise.

Come, Holy Spirit, to teach us new songs of thanksgiving.

Let us pray: With a Word, you scattered chaos,
God of wonder and joy, creating everything
imaginable, and those things only you could envision.
Pouring out your Breath of life, dolphins frolicked in
seas, dogs chased their tails in circles, songbirds
twittered to welcome the sunrise, and we were
shaped in your image, so we might enjoy life with you
in goodness.

But we tried to build a tower to reach those
temptations just out of our reach, convinced they
would make us happier than your joy.

Old men and women, young girls and boys,
those we call prophets and those we call meddlers,
came speaking your words of invitation so we might

return to you, but we thought they were drunk,
or foolish, or didn't have a clue as to what is really
important in life.

So you chose to send us your Child,
who spoke of your whispers to his heart,
calling us to trust in your once again.

With those who dare to imagine your wonder,
with those who wonder what is going on,
we sing of the thanksgivings filling our hearts:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who would gather us.

All creation joins in praising you this day.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who sends the Advocate to us.

Hosanna in the highest!

God of every moment, you alone are holy, and your
Heart, Jesus, comes to bring us new life, new hopes,
new spirit.

As the Spirit rested upon him at baptism, so he
calls us Beloved; as the Spirit accompanied him in the
wilderness, so he is with us in moments of struggles;
as the Spirit anointed him to serve, so he gives us the
words to challenge injustice, the courage to resist
easy choices, the determination to be faithful in
welcoming all people.

And as the Spirit strengthened him to confront the fear of death and abandonment, so the Spirit opens our closed hearts to the gracious news that death is no more, defeated once and for all by your resurrection love.

As we come to this Table, we remember the Spirit which was poured out at our baptism, the Spirit which fills us with new hope and life, the Spirit which transforms us into faithful people, and so we share that mystery we call faith:

Jesus gave his life, entering the silence of death; Jesus was raised, as resurrection's new song was sung; Jesus will come, and so we sing as long as we can, with the breath of the Spirit filling us.

Once again, as you did so long ago, pour out your Spirit upon those gathered in this place, as called by you, and upon the gifts gracing this Table. With the bread, you feed us, as you feed all creation, so we can go forth, each day, to offer hope to those who are forgotten, to share joy with those who grieve, to be the words of love for those who hear only judgment and hate.

With the cup, you nourish us, as you fill all of creation, so we can be poured out, each day,

for the children bullied in schools,
for the seniors mistreated by society,
for the most vulnerable who bear the brunt
of budget and tax cuts.

And when your Spirit comes at the end of all time and space, gather us with our sisters and brothers around the Table of grace and wonder where we will be filled with the Spirit's breath so we can sing your praises for all eternity,

God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS:

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strength our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

***RESPONSIVE Sending**

We have heard the voice of God,
who scatters us to gather the world
into the community of grace and hope.
We will go to fill the emptiness of others,

**to bring fresh air into all the stagnant places
of our neighborhoods and world.**

We have heard the words of Jesus,
who calls us to share the whispers
of healing, of reconciliation, of renewal.

**We will go to comfort those hiding in shadows,
to be the breath of kindness to the ridiculed,
to share in the silence of the broken and grieving.**

We have heard the rush of the Spirit's wind,
who would shatter our complacency,
and give us voices for justice and righteousness.

**We will go to sing songs of strength to the weak,
to whisper words of love to those who know only
hate, to shout for the renewal of all people
everywhere.**