



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Pentecost Sunday

Service of the Word – May 23, 2021

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing of the Bell
Our Life Together
The Solemn Declaration
Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: Here we gather for song and scripture, seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged.

People: Here we gather to retell the ancient tales and wonder how God's story continues to unfold.

Leader: Today we tell the story of Pentecost, the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples,

People: And we ask ourselves where we see the Holy Spirit present in our world today.

Leader: Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again. We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story, and inspire others to see the Holy at work in the world.

People: And we will ask ourselves if we are ready to share our own stories.

Leader: Friends, welcome. Welcome to this place with all questions, doubts, wonders, and find here an invitation to experience something ancient and something new. May we be open to the Spirit. May we be open to learning and learning from one another. May we grow in faith, hope, and love.

People: Amen.

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

#293 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Spirit of God, our prayers often ask You to be present in our lives and in our world. But we confess that we are terrified that You might actually show up.

We remember the stories of You appearing as a burning bush, and then Moses and Sarah leaving everything familiar behind.

We remember the stories of You kindling the imagination of the prophets, and then each putting their lives on the line.

We remember the stories of You sparking action within the early Church, compelling them all to embrace something completely foreign and new.

We confess, Dear Spirit, we are afraid You will call us to move outside our comfort zones. We are afraid You will kindle a passion within us we will be unable to ignore. We are afraid that You will rearrange our lives beyond recognition. Forgive us for the fears that have been holding us back from inviting You truly into our lives...

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Beloved people of God, find comfort in the news that the Spirit of God may be a formidable force, but He moves alongside people and equips those who are open to the work ahead. Peter, known more for his denial and disbelief than his bravery, suddenly had courage with the Spirit alongside him. The disciples, not known for being gifted communicators, suddenly broke down barriers with the Spirit alongside them. Beloved, do not be afraid. Remain curious.

All: We will be open to the surprises that God has for us and celebrate that God is indeed about to do new things with you.

*Choral Response

“Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination and the Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 104:24-34

New Testament Lesson Acts 2:1-21

Gospel Lesson John 16:4-15

Sermon

“Love in Every Language”

Pastor Jan

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

