

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Pentecost Sunday

May 28, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor Janice Garinger, Pastor in Care



The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Message of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21

Choral Introit

“Spirit of the Living God”

#283 (NCH)

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.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, with your language of wonder:

All: so we may mingle our words together to scatter the gospel of grace to all around us.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, with the music of your heart:

All: so we may sing songs filled with memories, and listen to the new carols sung by children.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, to rattle the windows of our souls:

All: to burst through the closed doors of our hearts, and dance with us in the fire of renewal.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, we pray!

All: Come, Holy Spirit, to us this day!

***Opening Hymn**

“O Spirit of the Living God”

#Insert

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We look for tongues of fire to dance upon us, God of Pentecost, but hold only the ashes of our broken promises. We long to speak simply and clearly so that everyone, everywhere, might understand your love for them, but we scatter our words to the wind with our inability to care for others. We want you to show us the secrets of the kingdom, never noticing they are revealed in the songs of children, the memories of older folks, the dreams of the young all around us.

Have mercy on us, and pour out your Spirit, God of amazing days. When we pull the shutters of our souls shut, fling them open with the breath of wonder. When we turn out all the lights and huddle in the shadow of fear, illumine our hearts with the dancing flames of the Spirit’s joy. When we find it impossible to come up with the language of love, pour your Word, Jesus Christ, into our emptiness so we may fill others.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news for us. God pours the Spirit upon us in these moments – the Spirit which comforts us, which encourages us, which transforms us through God’s grace.

All: Thanks be to God! The Spirit brings us peace, comforts our hearts, and fills us with hope. We are forgiven and made new. Amen.

***Choral Response**

“Gloria Patri”

#759 (NCH)

Glory be to the Savior our mighty God and Holy Comforter; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

A Story for All Ages and Dismissal to Sunday School

The Gift of the Word

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 104: 24-35

Gospel Lesson John 20: 19-23

Sermon

“Breath of Fresh Air”

Pastor Cope

Hymn

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

#290 (NCH)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response**

“Take My Gifts”

#562 (NCH)

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pentecost God, take our hearts and set them on fire. Take our lives and transform them. Take our church and resurrect it with your life-giving Spirit. Take our gifts and use them for the fulfillment of your vision of peace and unity. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

All: May the Spirit dance with you as well!

Leader: May God's grace be poured into your hearts.

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

Leader: May God's Word become your language of praise.

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

Leader: 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:

All: 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.

Hymn "Breath on Me, Breath of God" #292 (NCH)
Words of Institution
Sharing the Elements
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Our Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn** "There's a Spirit in the Air" v. 1,3,5,7 #294 (NCH)

*Words of Benediction

Closing Response "Lift High the Cross v.1" #198 (NCH)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.
Come Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

*Postlude

*Indicates that all who are able, please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.