

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

Pentecost Sunday, May 31st 2020

Call to Worship and Approach to God. *You are invited to light a candle.*

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

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.

(Psalm 104:24,29-30)

❖ Hymn

1. *Hail thee, Festival Day!*

blest day that art hallowed forever;

day when the Lord from heaven

shone in the world with his grace.

2. Lo! in the likeness of fire,
on those who await his appearing,
he whom the Lord foretold
suddenly, swiftly descends.

4. Hark! in a hundred tongues
Christ's own, his chosen apostles,
preach to a hundred tribes
Christ and his wonderful works.

3. Forth from the Father he comes
with his sevenfold mystical dowry,
pouring on human souls
infinite riches of God.

5. Praise to the Spirit of Life,
all praise to the fount of our being,
light that now lightens all,
life that in all now abides.

❖ Prayer of approach ending with the Lord's Prayer:

(say this in whichever language or version you prefer.)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Word of God

❖ Children's address

❖ Holy Scripture: Acts 2:1-8

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

Romans 8:14-28

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

❖ **Music in worship:** *Wana Baraka* - Arr. Shawn L. Kirchner

❖ **Sermon:** *followed by pause for reflection*

Response to God's Word

Hymn

1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be --
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.
2. Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.
3. Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.
4. Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.
5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be --
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

❖ Prayers of Intercession

❖ Offering and dedication

Please note that in the absence of an offering of money in this service you are invited to use the PayPal donation opportunity on the church's webpage.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the gift of
the Spirit of Life, given freely.
**May that Spirit bring justice,
generosity and abundance
to our needy world. Amen.**

❖ Hymn

1. Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Inflame our souls with love;
transforming ev'ry heart and home
with wisdom from above.
Let none of us despise
the humble path Christ trod,
but choose to shame the worldly-wise,
the foolishness of God.
2. Come with the gift to heal
the wounds of guilt and fear,
and to oppression's face reveal
the kingdom drawing near.
Where chaos longs to reign,
descend, O holy Dove,
and free us all to work again
the miracles of love.
3. Spirit of truth, arise;
inspire the prophet's voice:
expose to scorn the tyrant's lies,
and bid the poor rejoice.
O Spirit, clear our sight,
all prejudice remove,
and help us to discern the right,
and covet only love.
4. Give us the tongues to speak,
The word of love and grace,
to rich and poor, to strong and weak,
in every time and place.
Enable us to hear
the words that others bring,
interpreting with open ear
special song they sing.
5. Come, Holy Spirit, dance
within our hearts today,
our earthbound spirits to entrance,
our mortal fears allay.
And teach us to desire,
all other things above,
that self-consuming holy fire,
the perfect gift of love.

Blessing:

Go in peace to love and to serve God;
**and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us and unite us, now and always. Amen. *Threefold Amen***