



*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 19, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Each week in worship we welcome people to share their prayers. If you would like for a worship leader to read your prayer, fill out a prayer slip. Nursery care is available during the worship service; please ask an usher.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* and
Come Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire, arr. by Bill Cain

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT Let Every Christian Pray (Laudes Domini) Green/Barnby

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Called in God's Presence on Pentecost* Jo Ann Levitt

One: God who moved over the deep in a holy breath,

All: Come to us this day - Pentecost. Arrive in the wind.

One: God who spoke in a bush that was burned but not consumed,

All: Come to us this day - Pentecost. Arrive in a holy flame.

One: God who is present each time we gather at the table,

All: Come to us this day - Pentecost.

Arrive in bread and wine, conversation and connection.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit. Set us aflame, but do not consume us.

Fill us with holy nourishment.

All: We have arrived this day - Pentecost. We have come to worship.

by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, First Congregational, UCC, in Manhattan, Kansas

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *On Pentecost They Gathered* vss. 1-2

See page 6

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Super Spirit!*

The Lord's Prayer

Our God, who 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Children may go to music / story time.

CONTEMPORARY READING *Antiphon for the Holy Spirit*

Drea Pecor

by Hildegard of Bingen, translated by Barbara Newman

The Spirit of God
is a life that bestows life,
root of world-tree
and wind in its boughs.

Scrubbing out sin,
she rubs oil into wounds.

She is glistening life
alluring all praise,
all-awakening,
all-resurrecting.

SUNG RESPONSE (please remain seated)

Holy Spirit, Come to Us (Veni Sancte Spiritus)

2118

Repeat as desired.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in the key of D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ve - ni Sanc - te Spir - i - tus.' The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

WORDS: Pentecost Sequence; adapt. by Jacques Berthier
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier

VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS
Irregular

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

Liza Catino

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

SERMON

Dry Bones...Prophesy!

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

See pew hymnal #131

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us (Ebenezer)*, arr. by
Hal H. Hopson. Peter Fiegel, trumpet; Tracy Wilson, organ; and Choir
*The congregation should join in singing the 3rd verse when Peter turns and gestures
you in. Words are below, or you may open the pew hymnal to #129.*

**3 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; Give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise You, Glorify Your holy name.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas, Now and through eternity.**

*DOXOLOGY *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE *Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us (St. Matthew)*, Tweedy/Croft

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*SENDING CHARGE *David Anderegg*

One: In our moments of chaos...

All: God is with us.

One: In our moments of calm...

All: God is with us.

One: In our moments of life.

All: God is with us. Alleluia!

One: Let us live now as a Pentecost people,
touched by fire, stirred by wind, filled with breath.

All: Alleluia. Thanks be to God!

~ written by Richard Bott and Shannon Tennant

*HYMN *Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling* See page 6

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE *Fugue in D by William Selby*

Verses

1-2

272

On Pentecost They Gathered

Acts 2:1-24, 32-47

Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as God in Christ they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us hearts to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

Jane Parker Huber explained that she wrote this text in 1981 "to fill a gap in current hymnody," in that "many of the hymns concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit do not mention Pentecost."

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.
 Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

59

Timothy Rees, 1922; alt.

1 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing in the ho - liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er breath - ing on the church the breath of life;
3 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing through the church-'s min - is - try—

Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing o'er a world of gloom and
Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing through your peo - ple's cease - less
Quick - ening, strength - ening, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners

blight; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er rais - ing earth - bound souls to glo - ry
strife; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er form - ing in the church the mind of
free; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er bind - ing age to age and soul to

high; Liv - ing, life - im - part - ing Spir - it; you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
Christ: In our wor - ship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts un - priced.
soul, In com - mu - ni - ty un - end - ing you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Timothy Rees, Welsh curate, lecturer, chaplain, and winner of the Military Cross in World War I, was appointed Bishop of Llandaff in 1931. These words were written for the Anglican Community of Mirfield, Yorkshire, of which he was a member.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

“Strengthen The Church”

UCC Annual Offering

Pentecost Sunday

The “Strengthen the Church” United Church of Christ annual offering is traditionally taken on Pentecost Sunday. For the past few years, in place of taking up a special offering during the worship service on Pentecost, our congregation has instead put part of our annual pledge money into the Mission & Action Board’s operating budget, and we have given \$500 from that budget to this offering each year. Mission & Action wanted to remind you about this important ministry that your pledge dollars are helping to support.

This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Our support of this offering helps the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, this offering supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By participating in this offering, we are helping to build up the Body of Christ.



News and Announcements

Stockbridge Memorial Day Parade

Starts at the Town Hall at 12:15pm, concludes at The First Congregational Church front lawn at 12:45. Because Procter Hall is under renovation, the subsequent program and activities will be on the church lawn.

Church volunteers to help with building logistics that day welcomed; contact the church office for information.



As an Open and Affirming Congregation we approach **Pride Month** with faith, welcome and love. We will kick off June with a Pride Worship on June 2. This service is a great place to invite those looking for a church home. Tomorrow, we will be sending more information about Pride Activities including regional events and a Community Book Read we are hosting using Austen Hartke's wonderful work *transforming - The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians*. Questions - contact Pastor Brent.

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

We welcome today Peter Fiegel with his trumpet. Peter is a freshman at The Hartt School. Hartt is actually where Fimi and I met during our freshman year. We became fast friends and starting dating our senior year. Thank you Tracy Wilson for bringing Peter Fiegel to us.

Welcome! We are Open and Affirming, which means that we invite persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstance, faith background and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership and fellowship of this congregation's life in Christ.

As followers of Christ and committed to Isaiah's charge to "maintain justice and do what is right," we acknowledge with gratitude and humility that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshiping on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

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