

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 2021

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

FOR YOUR MEDITATION

“May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others.”

We enter, never as strangers, but always as guests of God.

If you come as a stranger, please know it is our intention you leave as a friend. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you this morning! May you experience God’s presence, and receive the blessing God has prepared for you.

THE PRELUDE

A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

WELCOMING THE HOLY SPIRIT – an adaptation by Karen Warfield
(krogalski@snet.net)

Reader 1 (Water): In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the waters.

WATER COMES FORWARD

Reader 2 (Wind): The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

WIND COMES FORWARD

Reader 3 (Fire): I baptize you with water; but one more powerful than I is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

FIRE COMES FORWARD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsive Call to Worship

Congregational response is *“Come, Holy Spirit”*

HYMN OF PRAISE # (NCH - black) # 265 “Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound”

1. Come, O Spirit, with Your sound like a wind, quick rushing;
Come from heaven and stir our hearts, each disciple touching!
Mold our actions to Your will, you our service giving;
move in our community, transform now our living!

2. Come, O Spirit, with Your flame, leaping tongues of fire;
come, and with your glorious light all our thoughts inspire!
Rest upon each servant’s head till each one is speaking
of our Christ, the Holy One, all the earth is seeking!

3. Come, O Spirit, fill Your church, making strong our mission;
fill Your daughters and your sons with a mighty vision,
Till the great and glorious day when the whole creation
sings your praise as Sovereign One, giver of salvation!

**PRAYER OF PRAISE AND INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
(unison)(we use “sins”)**

God of All Power, You speak to us in rushing wind, in dancing flames, in ways that transcend language. And, so we pray for Your spirit to open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to receive Your spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Help us to hear You, to see You and to know You with truth and with joy.

Listen, O Spirit Divine, as we pray together as Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

*“Our Father, 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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*

***THE 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.**

WE HEAR GOD’S LIVING WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Lay Readers- Denise Parmenter, Janice Knight and Sue Milici

A dramatic reading of from the New Testament: Acts 2: 1-21

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *(Children are invited to come forward)*

SERMON: *"A Symphony of Spirit"*

HYMN - (NCH - black) # 267 *"Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us"*

1. Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with Pentecostal power; give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour. Built up on a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone, still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.

2. We would raise our alleluias for the grace of former years; for tomorrow's unknown pathway, Hear, O God, our humble prayers. In the church's pilgrim journey You have led us all the way, still in the presence move before us, fire by the night and cloud by day.

3. Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame. Help our struggling voices praise you, glorify your holy name. Good Creator, Savior, Spirit, Three in One; what mystery! We sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**WE BRING GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER
PRAYER RESPONSE**

OFFERTORY

"We covenant with God through our tithes and offerings"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Holy One, receive what we offer and transform it by the power of your Spirit into: enough money, sufficient praise, worthy words for proclaiming and enacting Your peace, justice, and love in the world. Amen.

HYMN (NCH - black) # 272 *“On Pentecost They Gathered”*

1. On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ’s disciples to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire a glowing inspired each person there.
2. The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as God in Christ they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ once dead is risen to vanquish all our fear.
3. God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men and children who would God’s grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.
4. O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
Rekindle faith among us in all life’s ebb and flow.
o give is hearts to listen and tongues a flame with praise,
so folks of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.

SENDING OUT

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** - NCH # 6 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” vs 1

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing, the
people of God from his dwelling take leave. The service is ended,
O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for God
and for all. God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God’s
realm and to answer the call.

THE POSTLUDE

The end of worship, the beginning of service. Go forth and serve God gladly.

We Welcome all who worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor and have no church home, we hope you find a home here. If you are “passing through,” we offer you God’s blessings as you continue your journey and thank you for sharing with us.

WEEKLY PRAYER: Come, O Holy Spirit: By John Henry Newman

Come, O Holy Spirit.

*Come as Holy Fire and burn in us,
come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within,
come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness,
come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance,
come as Holy Power and enable our weakness,
come as Holy Life and dwell in us.*

*Convict us, convert us, consecrate us,
until we are set free from the service of ourselves,
to be your servants to the world. Amen.*

LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by reading the Scripture or bringing a children’s sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list in the Parish Hall and speak with Dixie Silvestri.

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

May- Lou Scotti

June – Jack Sabine

NOTES ON THE TEXT

Pentecost Sunday commemorates the day when Jesus sent His Holy Spirit upon the disciples of the early church, setting into motion a powerful movement that changed the world in significant ways. There is much commentary on this text but here are a couple of highlights:

- Though this event is associated with the foundation of the Church, it did not take place in a church. They “were all together in the one place.” (v.1), but the “one place” is not known. The location is not important. What is important is the deafening sound and spectacular sight as each person became filled with the Holy Spirit. It’s not about place but the impact of the Spirit on people: how they went outside ‘the place’ and began evangelizing to an increasingly astonished crowd.
- Next, we turn to Peter, who preaches quite powerfully, however just over seven weeks earlier he had denied Jesus three times. He was also the man who boldly got out of the boat and started walking across the water to Jesus, but whose courage then failed him (Matthew 14:29-30)? What had changed? The Spirit had emboldened him to fulfill the potential which Jesus had always recognized in him. Are we letting the Spirit today embolden us to fulfill the potential to which we are called both as individuals and as a Church?
- Now, as for the multitude of places represented in the throng that day – everyone there was able to hear the ‘great things God had done’ in their own language. We can speculate about the nature of this phenomenon, but what is clear is that the Spirit was ensuring that no one was left out. Notwithstanding diversity of origin or language, the Spirit was securing unity. The message was for everyone. **“I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message.”** No discrimination: men and women; young and old; enslaved and free. It is important to understand the significance of this because in an age and time when the normal order of things elevated men over women, age over youth, and free over slaves, the Spirit is now overturning the established order and making ALL people equal, and removing ALL barriers to God.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- *Sunday (23rd) **PENCOST SUNDAY**
 10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
 11:00AM 98th Birthday Celebration for Mary Evan's
 1:00 PM Walking Group
- *Monday (24th)
- *Tuesday (25th)
 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting
- * Wednesday (26th)
 10:00 AM Fair Workshop
 7:00 PM Handbell Choir
- *Thursday (27th)
 7:00PM Communication Meeting
- *Friday (28th)
- *Saturday (29th)
- *Sunday (30th) **TRINITY SUNDAY**
 10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
 11:15AM Virtual Zoom Coffee Hour
 1:00 PM Walking Group

CHURCH TELEPHONE NUMBER: (860) 228-9306

e-mail: ccchurch@snet.net Website: columbiacongregationalchurch.org

Columbia Congregational Church

P.O. Box 177

Columbia, CT 06237