

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MAY 23, 2021

PENTECOST

**"STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH" SPECIAL OFFERING
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**



*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation
or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship,
responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE *Variations on "Come Creator Spirit"* Hal Hopson

TOLLING THE BELL

INTROIT *Moment for the Sacred* Alexander Schreiner

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME Marilyn Davis, *Announcer*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader; People) From Romans 8

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that same Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purposes. And those called are justified by God, and those justified are glorified by God.

Therefore now, in the Spirit of love, with words and without, express our depth of joy.

***RAISING THE COVENANT** *Covenant of 1977*

We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust God's promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.

***HYMN** *Spirit of God* Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,
Blow as you always do, create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Refrain.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,

The power to, to share your love everywhere.

We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,

Held in your hands, borne on your wings. *Refrain.*

Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,

The life in our hands that sings, the pow'r of your wings,

Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,

Held in your hands, borne on your wings. *Refrain.*

***PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)**

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

From Psalm 104

O holy ONE, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. All of us look to you for food in due season. When you present it, we gather it up and are filled. When you hide your face, we are dismayed; when you take away our spirit we die and turn to dust. When you send forth your Spirit, we come alive, and you renew the face of the ground. May your glory endure forever. May you find cause to rejoice in us. We will sing to you as long as we live, singing praise to you while we have being. May our meditation be pleasing to you, for we rejoice in you. Our souls bless you, O holy ONE. Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Rev. Elston McCowan, *Speaker*

THE WORD SHARED

Marilyn Davis

From the Gospels

John 15:26-27

The Inclusive Bible

Jesus said, "When the Advocate comes – the Spirit of truth who comes from Abba God, whom I myself will send from my Abba – she will bear witness on my behalf. You too must bear witness, for you have been with me from the beginning."

From Christian History

Acts 2:1-4

New Revised Standard Version

When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,

and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Stranger, Share Our Fire

Daniel Moe

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Reintroduction”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

INTERLUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Denoon

Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

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.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Marilyn Davis

Invitation

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God above, you heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

**Recognition of a Ministry Ending*

Rev. Denoon

(Thanks to Merrimon Boyd)

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

Marilyn Davis

O God, just as we have been birthed by your Spirit to become one Body, we have assembled these gifts to testify to your faithfulness – your grace and forgiveness – toward people in every time, nation, and language. Please bless our gifts of thanksgiving in Jesus' name. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

DISMISSAL

Marilyn Davis

We Hold in Our Prayers

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care – Sharon Beal, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable
- All people who are living with dementia, their families and their caregivers – Bob Buerk and others
- People we love who are living with cancer – Bill Barrett, Jim Bennett, Margaret Gustafson, Peter McHugh, Bob Moody
- All those the world regards as disabled – especially David & Becky Scott
- People recovering from recent hospitalizations – Jean Kohler
- People with mental illnesses, as well as the people who love and care for them
- People who are lonely or alone because of the pandemic
- Those whose employment and businesses are at risk
- COVID-19 patients
- Front line workers and their loved ones
- For our governmental leaders, and for healing for our country and all its people
- Peace with justice

Thank you to this Week's Hospitality Team

Mike Lenard, Julie McHugh, Jacquie Bryant, Liu Lin Theo, Rosemary Hensley, Tom Waltz, Sharon Love, and Carolyn Woodsmall

Electronic Device Users

If you wish to access our wi-fi, our network connections are: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3. The password for each is firstchurch.

Finding Your Way at First Church

The Nursery: The Nursery is attended today. The Nursery is located through the double doors at the end of the Narthex (foyer), turn left. Nursery/Toddler Room is on your right (Dutch doors).

Restrooms: Family restrooms are located to the right of the Narthex (foyer) as you go to the Library (look for the blue library banner) and to the left of the Narthex just before the double doors. ***If you need to step out during worship, please use the aisle closest to your seat, and enter/exit by using the nearest door.***

Week at a Glance

Sunday, May 23

Merrimon's Graduation Celebration (during Annual Meeting)
Pentecost

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Annual Meeting

11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship - Jubilee Garden - Following Worship

Monday, May 24

DARRELL - Vacation

Tuesday, May 25

DARRELL - Vacation

10:30 AM - Noon Staff Meeting (Please note: Staff will be unavailable at this time)

6:00 PM Lady Elect - Blackburn Park

Wednesday, May 26

DARRELL - Vacation

9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

Thursday, May 27

DARRELL - Vacation

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice



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