



Faith

UNITED CHURCH *of Christ*

Sunday, May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday

Rev. Ted Brelsford | Pastor
Rev. Gary Burdick | Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Ruth Foley | Organist

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time of Silent Preparation

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist - Mr. Fred Shear

Leader: Wondrous are the works of God! In wisdom God has made them all; the earth is full of God's creatures.

People: When God sends forth the spirit, they are created; and the face of the ground is renewed.

Leader: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.

People: We will sing to the LORD as long as we live; let us sing praise to our God while we have being.

Leader: May our worship be pleasing to God, for we rejoice in the LORD.

ALL: Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

INVOCATION

*HYMN *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* Black #2120, vs. 1,2,3

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spirit of the Living God,

All nations, tribes, and tongues belong to you.

All glory, honor, and praise are due your name.

Therefore, we confess that we have been a divided people—

Mother from child, brother from sister, and neighbor from friend.

Have mercy on us and send your power upon your church,

That we may know, once more, that you have

Baptized us in one baptism, one faith, one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Tear down the walls of hatred and the towers of sin in our lives.

May your Spirit descend upon our lives and make us holy and one.

In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-21

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 people 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? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews^[a] and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

PSALM (read antiphonally) Psalm 104:24-35

How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all.

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number— living things both large and small.

There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.

***HYMN** *America, the Beautiful* Gray #418, vs. 1,3,4

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-22

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

SERMON "The Breath of Life"

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN** *Breath on Me, Breath of God* Gray #295, vs. 1,2

***FAITH UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

"We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Praise

Blessing of Elements

Partaking Together

*When the usher comes to your row, those who wish to partake should come forward by the center aisle. **The Pastor will place a wafer in the palm of your hand and then you may take a cup from the tray.** Sealed Communion packets are available to take back to your seat if you prefer. Wrapped and marked **gluten free wafers** are also available to take. Grapes and crackers are available for children at the table to your left of the pulpit.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN

Breath on Me, Breath of God

Gray #295, vs. 3,4

***GIFTS and OFFERINGS** *There is an offering plate on the small table near the doors as you exit the sanctuary. May God bless the missions of our church and the needs of the world through the gifts of our resources. Amen.*

*DOXOLOGY

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

Shalom to You

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

*In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

*POSTLUDE

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

For peace in this country and the world, for our military, for all who are at war, and those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. For those whose needs we do not know. For Bill Bates, Vickie Bieger, Sue Cook, Gary Cook, Eleanor Cornwall, Stephen Dearth, Shay Decinney, Judy Delia, Barb Fink, Louise Forney, Pat Granville, Jim Henry, Marcia Herren, Scot Kish, Eleanor Kraft, Marsha Lambert, Carol Mueller, Phyllis Potter, Claudia Renzi, Loretta Rishel, Jeff Rishel, Tom & Marilyn Rucker, Joe Ryan, Sally Schutt, Fred Shear, Linda & Mike Smerka, Janet Taber, Bob Tills, and Joyce Whittemore.

For Those in the Military: Zachary Braun, Justin Buczek, Teegan Partridge, Cadan Skinner, Jamie-Lynn Smerka, Joe Solak, Mark Solak, Aaron Wellman and Mark Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today will be your last day to collect for the Strengthen the Church offering. This collection funds leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregation in the UCC. Thank you for your donations
- We will have VBS classes on Sunday, June 4 and June 11.
- Pictures for the new pictorial directory will be taken on June 18 before and after church. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the directory, we would love to have you! If you have any questions, see Gail Berger.
- Pastor Ted will be on professional leave to teach an online seminary course for Emory University May 30 – June 12, and teach a continuing education course and attend the Annual Meeting for the NY Conference UCC. June 15-June 18. We will have guest preachers June 4, 11 & 18. For pastoral emergencies we will contact Rev. Gary V. Burdick.
- On **Sunday June 25th** we will recognize 2023 Graduates. If you know of someone who graduated this year, please sign up on the “Graduate Signup Sheet” on the bulletin board.
- **The Pamphlets for Camping at Dunkirk** are on the bulletin board shelf. Also, don't forget to renew your Dunkirk Auxillary dues for this year. Dues are only \$5.00 and support the work of Dunkirk. Anyone can be a member, so if you never have participated now is a great time to join. Sheila Recktenwalt is in charge of collecting the money for dues!