



# Kent United Church of Christ

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, and W.I.S.E. CONGREGATION*

## PENTECOST

**May 28, 2023**

PRELUDE

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

arr. Phillip Keveren

GREETING

Rev. Amy Gopp, senior minister

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jackie Peck, liturgist

Come Holy Spirit—

Speak in a dialect our hearts understand.

**Come Holy Spirit—**

Bless us with the gifts we need to co-labor towards justice.

**Come Holy Spirit—**

Make vivid our dreams about the ways of radical care.

**Come Holy Spirit—**

Pour your vitality over our lives that we may be life-giving!

\*OPENING HYMN #261

*Let Every Christian Pray*

LAUDES DOMINI

\*INVOCATION

Jackie Peck

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*"Jesus Loves the Little Children" is sung to bless the children.*

Pastor Amy

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 2:1-21

Here ends the reading from God's word.

**Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.**

Jackie Peck

SERMON

*Surprise!*

Pastor Amy

ANTHEM

*Hymn to the Holy Spirit*  
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: A PENTECOST LITANY

Under the Law of Moses, it was a harvest festival, a feast of the first fruits of the people's labor.

**By the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ, it became a festival of the Spirit, a feast of power.**

The crucified and risen Lord had left his disciples again—with a story no one would believe without a show of power.

**But he left them with a promise of power, the power of the Holy Spirit, the power that would give wings to their story and make them his witnesses "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).**

The power of God's Spirit took them by surprise,  
**but they were in the right place, and they were together.**

God's Spirit hovered above them like tongues of flame:

**their fear vanished; their speech caught fire.**

They spoke in their native Aramaic,

**but their astonished audience heard them, each in his or her own language.**

A harvest festival became, by the power of God's Spirit, a great harvest of souls.

**Thanksgiving for the first fruits of the people's labor turned into the birthday feast of the church.**

Gracious God, we are children of your promise, embodied and fulfilled in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**In his name, we now pray for the gifts of this day.**

We pray for the gift of repentance.

**Grant each of us enough honesty to confess at least one real wrong.**

We pray for the gift of baptism,

**not of water but of the Spirit, that we may have the power to correct at least that one wrong.**

We pray for the gift of speech as witnesses of our Lord.

**May we, with tongues untied and hearts aflame, witness to his deathless love for us and**

**for all your children, especially those who are hard to love because they have no proper love for themselves.**

It was a harvest festival in days of old.

**People brought the first fruits to you to be blessed.**

Gracious God, on this joyful Pentecost bring forth in each of us spiritual fruit  
**that we as your church may be empowered to share in your worldwide harvest of peace with justice.**

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**Our Creator  
who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom,  
and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #270 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

BRIDEGROOM

OFFERING INVITATION

Jackie Peck

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Amy

\*CLOSING HYMN #59

*Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*

NETTLETON

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Amy

\*POSTLUDE

*Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire*

arr. Lyndell Leatherman



**Our service has ended. Now our service begins.  
You are the Body of Christ, and the whole world awaits you.**

*The flowers today are an offering from the Kent UCC dedicated to Pastor Amy  
and her return to our congregation. Bless her and her family.*