
Worship at St. John's Baptist Church

Sunday, May 23, 2021 | Pentecost Sunday

Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Pentecost Musical Reflection

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:1-17

Ed Turner & Kim Blanchard, readers

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound, the crowd gathered and was bewildered because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: '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.'

This is the written word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Come Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire

by Charles Wesley

O HOW I LOVE JESUS

Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
let us Thine influence prove;
source of the old prophetic fire,
fountain of life and love.

Refrain

Fill us with Your Spirit, fill us with Your Spirit,
fill us with Your Spirit and send us to do Thy will.

Come, Holy Ghost, for moved by Thee
the prophets wrote and spoke;
unlock the truth, Thyself the key,
unseal the sacred book.

Refrain

Moment of Reflection

Today is Pentecost Sunday. The day to celebrate and acknowledge God with us in the Holy Spirit. If we had been there....we would have witnessed the birth of the Christian Church with our eyes and ears. We would have witnessed what it truly is to be a diverse and inclusive church with unity in faith. I have a question for you.

What does it mean?

“Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting.”

What does it mean?

“They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them.”

What does it mean?

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.”

What does it mean?

“The crowd could hear them declaring the mighty works of God in their own languages.”

What DOES it all mean?

Hymn

On Pentecost, They Gathered

ST. THEODULPH

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.

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Allison Benfield

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

arr. Jason W. Krüg

St. John's Handbell Choir

Jacquelyn McAbee, director

Message

All Together Through Prayer

Dr. Daynette Snead-Perez

Hymn

God the Spirit, Guide, and Guardian
HYFRYDOL

God the Spirit, guide and guardian,
wind-sped flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets,
sign of blessing, power of love,
Give to those who lead your people,
fresh anointing of your grace.
Send them forth as bold apostles
to your church in every place.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

Ethan Uslan, pianist