

Sunday Worship - May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday



Narrative Lectionary Week 35 - Pentecost

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

Welcome to Worship

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: “When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

All: Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building.

Leader: Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.”

**All: O God, we remember that your church was born in wind and fire,
not to sweep us heavenward like a presumptuous tower,
but to guide us down the dusty roads of this world
so that we may lift up the downcast, heal the broken, reconcile what is lost,
and bring peace amidst unrest.**

~Acts 2:1-4 (The Message) and Garth House, Litanies for All Occasions

*HYMN Spirit of God, Bright Wind (verses 1-4)

*1 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, born on your wings.*

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)

*2 Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,
healing upon your wings for all living things.*

*For when we live your peace, captives will find release,
held in your hands, born on your wings.*

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)

*3 Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far off lands
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.*

*No matter where we go, you hold us together so,
held in your hands, born on your wings.*

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)

*4 Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.*

*We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,
held in your hands, born on your wings.*

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)

*A LITANY FOR PENTECOST

Leader: When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place and all of the many foreigners heard the witnesses speaking in their own tongue.

All: Come, Spirit, Come! Witness to us also in our several languages.

Leader: Speak in the language of our need.

Let us hear how our deepest hungers, desires, and aspirations can be fulfilled by your goodness and in your service.

All: Come, Spirit, Come.

Leader: Speak in the language of our fear.

Let us hear how our worries about the future, about each other, about ourselves, can find rest in your providential care.

All: Come, Spirit, Come.

Leader: Speak in the language of our gratitude.

Let us hear how our honest thanks relate us, not only to those with whom we live, but also to you, the Lord and Giver of life.

All: Come, Spirit, Come.

Leader: Speak to us in the language of hope.

Let us hear how our yearning and our expectation are not just wishful thinking, but responses to your calling and promise.

All: Come, Spirit, Come.

*~from *Imaging the Word: An Arts & Lectionary Resource*, Vol. 3, p. 225*

Time of Silence

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: The Holy Spirit comes to us, offering us life, healing, power and peace.

All: Thanks be to God, who makes all things new! Amen.

*RESPONSE Spirit of God, verse 5

*Spirit of God, in all, we gladly hear your call,
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,
held in your hands, born on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the gifts of God's Spirit be with you.

All: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME - *Noisy Offering for Camp Wyoming*

SCRIPTURE

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

All: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Romans 8:14-39 (NRSV) - The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Reader 1: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Reader 2: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader 1: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader 2: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Reader 1: What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Reader 2: No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

HYMN #292 As the Wind Song

*1 As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze, so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God.*

*2 As the rainbow after the rain, as the hope that's born again, so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring, as a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true, bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.*

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Leader: There are many ways to offer ourselves, our resources, our lives to God and the way of God. We do so in response to God's abundant love and provision.

OFFERTORY

~ Offerings may be placed in the basket located at the back of church or given online at www.firstpresmv.com

*DOXOLOGY #607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Blow the dust off our fears, Generous Spirit, so we might be more giving people. Blow the dust off our material gifts we think are so paltry, so we might realize how they can bring hope and life to others. Blow the dust off our mistaken views of others, so we might see them as our sisters and brothers, ready to grace us, even as we may bless them with these offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

~Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies.blogspot.com

*HYMN #291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*REFRAIN Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free.
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

1 You moved on the waters; you called to the deep; then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing: "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

REFRAIN

2 You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand; and you goaded your people with a law and a land. When they were confounded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. REFRAIN

3 You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill; then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still. And down in the city, you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. REFRAIN

4 You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes; from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams. Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. REFRAIN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) for a potluck meal

Thank you to the following people for serving this morning:

Emily Fitzpatrick, Liturgist

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV Crew

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Jonathan Walsh, Director of Christian Education

Julia Andrews, Director of Music

Donna Warhover, Office Manager

Trent Bowman, Custodian