



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Tongues of Fire”

Pentecost

May 23, 2021

10:30 a.m. Facebook Live Service

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church’s Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Angela Spialek, Office Administrator
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

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• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text.*

MOMENT FOR CENTERING

GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

INTROIT

“Remember”

(Judy Nielsen)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here we gather for song and scripture, seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged.

Many: Here we gather to retell the ancient tales and wonder how God’s story continues to unfold.

One: Today we tell the story of Pentecost, the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples,

Many: And we ask ourselves where we see the Holy Spirit present our world today.

One: Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again. We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story, and inspire others to see the Holy at work in the world.

Many: And we will ask ourselves if we are ready to share our own stories.

One: Friends, welcome. Welcome to this place with all questions, doubts, wonders, and find here an invitation to experience something ancient and something new. May we be open to the Spirit. May we be open to learning and learning from one another. May we grow in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #293

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

GATHERING PRAYER

One: Spirit of God, our prayers often ask You to be present in our lives and in our world. But we confess that we are terrified that You might actually show up.

Many: We remember the stories of You appearing as a burning bush, and then Moses and Sarah leaving everything familiar behind.

One: We remember the stories of You kindling the imagination of the prophets, and then each putting their lives on the line.

Many: We remember the stories of You igniting courage within Shiphrah and Puah, Deborah and Esther, Elizabeth and Mary, and then each challenging the status quo.

One: We remember the stories of You sparking action within the early Church, compelling them all to embrace something completely foreign and new.

Many: We confess, Dear Spirit, we are afraid You will call us to move outside our comfort zones. We are afraid You will kindle a passion within us we will be unable to ignore. We are afraid that You will rearrange our lives beyond recognition. Forgive us for the fears that have been holding us back from inviting You truly into our lives...

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”
(Ben Banks)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 2:1-21 NRSV (pg. 992)

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 NRSV (pg. 984)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE #286

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

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

HOMILY

“Tongues of Fire”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Remember Me”
(Chuck Byam)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)

OFFERING MOMENT

*Please give what you can by mail or through prayers.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com*

CLOSING HYMN #526

“Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos”

(We'll sing this 3 times: first & third time in the original; second time in English)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

POSTLUDE

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”

(Chuck Byam)

Please join us for a short fellowship time in person behind the church at 1pm. In the case of rain, we will hold our regular Zoom fellowship call at 12.

CREDITS

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Kelly Stuible-Clark

Music Coordinator – Kelly Stuible-Clark

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

Slowly

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
 2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you



know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
 know that Spir - it's full - ness and be - lieve: you're the



sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
 one to prof - it when you say, "I am

to Refrain

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
 going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here



with us, fill-ing us with your love; And for these bless-ings we



lift our hearts in praise. With-out a doubt we'll know that we have



been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
 kha - nyen' kwen-khos', We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
 light of God. the light of God. march-ing, we are

ham - ba, Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
 march-ing, Oo, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

Last time, end

Acts 2:1-21 NRSV

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 nation 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, “Men of Judea 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.’

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 NRSV

26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. **27** You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

4 But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. **5** But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ **6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** about sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; **11** about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.