



Plymouth United Church of Christ Rev. David Huber, Pastor

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Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 23, 2021

10:30 A.M.

The Family of God Gathers

Gathering Music

Please let the prelude be a signal to prepare for worship.

“Bourree”

Georg Philipp Telemann

Greeting

Call to Worship †

L: God declares: “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.

P: Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

L: The young shall see visions.

P: The elders shall dream dreams.

L: Both men and women shall prophesy.

P: And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Opening Music

“Let Every Christian Pray”

Let every Christian pray, this day and every day, come, Holy Spirit, come!

Was not the church we love commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come!

**The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth to seek and save the lost:
God never has withdrawn, since that tremendous dawn, the gifts of Pentecost.**

Only the Spirit’s power can fit us for this hour: come, Holy Spirit, come!

Unite, instruct, inspire and fill us with your fire: come, Holy Spirit, come!

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Prayer of Confession §

God of Pentecost surprises, you have sent your Spirit to dwell within us and blow around us. Yet we too often forget to look for its movement. We miss the places where you are at work or calling us to serve. We too often forget to trust in the Spirit’s power to help us pray, to sustain us in troubled times, to unite us, and to give us strength to be your servant ambassadors to the world around us. Forgive us and guide us to your way, keep us in your care, and lead us to more faithfully rely on the gifts of the Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon †§

L: The Spirit of God’s truth has come upon creation and upon you. In Jesus’ name, you are forgiven!

P: You are forgiven!

L: May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

The Sign of Peace

Now please take a moment and share the peace with those in your household and/or offer a moment to send prayers of peace to those you love who are not with you.

Centering Music

“We Come to Hear Your Word”

We come to hear your word: Lord, open up our hearts and lives again.

So let your voice be heard: we’re ready to receive this daily bread.

Refrain:

Your word is truth and life to us, so light the way. As we believe your promises, renew our faith.

We come to hear your word: let revelation shape our hearts anew.

We long to know you more: come, Spirit, lead us deeper into truth. *Refrain*

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The Service of the Word

New Testament Lesson

Acts 2:1–21

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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

L: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

P: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

L: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

P: There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

L: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

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

L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

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

L: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

P: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

L: Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

All: Praise the Lord!

Gospel

John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15

“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. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 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. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

**On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ’s disciples to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing inspired each person there.**

**The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as God in Christ they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.**

**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.**

O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us hearts to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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, for ever. Amen.

*Benediction †§

L: Jesus did not leave us without hope but sent the Holy Spirit to nurture faith and love in this world.
P: **Giving us the power to return rancor with kindness, to be patient where there is pain, and to let God's dreams become reality.**
L: We are not alone! May God keep you and make your prayers bear fruit.
All: Amen!

Postlude

“Spirit Song”

† *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1 ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.
§ Modified/written by Rev. David Huber

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. David Huber • Ministers: All the people of Plymouth • Guest Preacher: Jim Oliver • Pianist: Lynn McFadyen • Liturgist: Sandy Moore

We of Plymouth extend to you our hand of fellowship and an invitation to become a member. If you are interested, or have any questions, please speak with or send a note to Pastor David or our Moderator, Barb Kleist. Our table always has room for more.

This Week at Plymouth

Sunday, May 23

Pentecost Sunday

10:30 A.M. Worship

Tuesday, May 25

9:00 A.M. Coffee & Conversation

10:00 A.M. Quilters

Thursday, May 27

3:30 P.M. Coffee & Conversation

Sunday, May 30

10:30 A.M. Worship

We pray for:

- All houses of worship—churches, temples, and mosques in the Chippewa Valley who provide ecumenical and interfaith combined fellowship and service to our community.

Who we are...

Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

In this coming week consider how many ways and through which persons you are shown a new path for your life. Watch for startling nudges or sudden epiphanies; listen for sighs that signal letting go of something pressing so that you can hear the Spirit's guidance. What have you learned? How can you give thanks?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of newness and delight, you greet your world again with light and life. I awaken to your presence behind, before, beneath, above, and within me. I thank you for another day and ask only that you keep me so firmly in your care that I can move gracefully through all I have to do. Guard my family, my friends, and all my brothers and sisters in faith. Let me be a peacemaker today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good and Holy One, you have led me through this day of many encounters to the time when I may close my eyes and dream. I thank you for the people you have sent my way today, for the work I have had to do, for the food, shelter, and safety you have given. I pray that people everywhere may have all necessary comfort and nourishment and that I may lie down in peace, resting in the trust that you are watching over all creation. I pray this in the name of the One who made Earth, called the children to come, and blows through our days with wisdom. Amen.

God is still speaking,