



J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Day of Pentecost
May 19, 2024 * 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* arr. Glenda Austin
Welcome and Announcements Rev. Cassie Alston
Introit *This is Holy Ground* Christopher Beatty

Call to Worship

God declares, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. The young shall see visions. The elders shall dream dreams. Both men and women shall prophesy. **And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

***Hymn No. 291** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, you come among your people as One who fashioned all things, who, face-to-face, revealed your knowledge of our lives, and whose presence brings assurance and hope. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love so that in hearing and seeing the gifts of this life, we may know the way to live in thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Litany for Pentecost

Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters. From your breath all creation drew life. Without you, life turns to dust.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration, the prophets spoke and acted in faith. You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Power, you came as fire to Jesus' disciples; you gave them voice before the rulers of this world.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Giver of life, you guide and make holy the church you create; you give gifts – the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety, the spirit of the fear of the Lord, that the whole creation may be transformed.

Come, Holy Spirit!

True and only light...only in your Spirit can we voice your words of peace and acclaim Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Jesus says: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Through Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

Word

Anthem *Come Down, Lord* Stan Pethel

Prayer for Illumination

God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of your Word and the understanding of your Spirit so that we may be your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon *Empowered* Rev. Cassie Alston

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed* Hymnal, p. 14

***Hymn No. 805 (Gloria Patri)** *Glory Be to the Father* GREATOREX

***Hymn No. 557** *Open My Eyes, That I May See* SCOTT

The Invitation to the Offering

The Holy Spirit was sent to increase our compassion and to make us glad to spread good news by caring for those in need. May you enter into the discipline of giving as a work of the Holy Spirit within you.

Offertory *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* arr. Mark Hayes
***Hymn No. 809** (Doxology) *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**
God of mercy, we give your thanks for all that your bounty creates. The gifts we bring today acknowledge our debt and gratitude to you. Bless what we offer and bless those who will be shown deeds of power through them; in Jesus name. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Sending

***Hymn No. 297** *Spirit of the Living God* SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

***Charge and Benediction**
Jesus did not leave us without hope but sent the Holy Spirit to nurture faith and love in this world. Live this vision in all that you do: respond to rancor with kindness, be patient where there is pain, and let your dreams become reality. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever. **Amen.**

Postlude *The Solid Rock* William B. Bradbury

*Please stand as you are able.

Announcements

Welcome to worship!

All who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To our visitors, we offer a special welcome and invite you to join us again soon. Please fill out the blue card in your pew and place it in the offering plate when it is passed.

Record from Last Sunday Attendance: 62 Offering: \$3,488.00

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian

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| Wednesday, 5/22 | 7:15 AM | Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) |
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Upcoming Events

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| Sunday, 5/26 | 10:30 AM | Worship: Trinity Sunday |
| Sunday, 6/2 | 10:30 AM | Worship (Communion) MICA Sunday |

Questions for Reflection:

In this coming week consider how many ways 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. 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 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 blows through our days with wisdom. Amen.

(Long, Kimberly Bracken, ed. *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, vol. 1.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014, p. 120-121.)

Sanctuary Flowers: The sanctuary flowers are given by Stacey Moak in memory of Jeanie Moak and Sylvia Harris.