

## TUMC Worshiping Together on Sunday May 31, 2020

Rev. Amy Overton-Harris

Flowers for our worship this morning from Selinda Smith

“For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.”



Good Morning Dear Ones,

We are on the precipice of the month of June! Who could have imagined such a thing as this? It is my joy to see some folks on zoom, to talk on the phone and to share a card or two. I hope and pray that this day of Pentecost brings to you a powerful spirit of love and new life. If you would like, I invite you to close your eyes and imagine the people in our congregation. You can probably picture where they sit, what their voice sounds like. Imagine singing your favorite song with everyone gathered. Imagine our musicians and singers. Imagine laughter, prayer, the sound of children, a cup of coffee together. Every morning I engage in this practice. Joy rises in me, a smile comes to my face, and I give thanks to God for all of you and all the ways you love God and your neighbor every day. God bless you on this day of Pentecost.



Song: [Breathe on Me Breath of God](#)

### **Opening Prayer** (traditional Native American Prayer)

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze: We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we many understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come home to you. Amen

### Joys and Concerns



As always, please keep one another in your thoughts and prayers.

- Mildred Wells.
- Dan Gassoway, prayers for good health.
- Ofilia Boyd in her continuing recovery.
- Emilie Kroen as she continues treatment.
- All who are suffering with the Covid 19 virus.
- Renee Dubarko's niece and her pregnancy.
- Health Care and essential workers.
- Dr. Petter Overton-Harris who lives and works in the heart of riot plagued Minneapolis.
- Penny Christianson's daughter Liz as she continues to recover from a severe concussion.
- George and Patt Bowlsby and Family as George's son David (58) is now on hospice.
- Our own Sharona is pictured on "Tuesdays for Trash" video. (pics of young people from around the world picking up trash) Yay Sharona!
- Paul, a close friend of Ted and Tami, as he recovers from aortic valve replacement.
- Our wonderful community garden and all of the gardeners.
- Amy and Tim's 36<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (May 27) Wow! Tim is soooooo old. 😊

(please send Amy additional prayer requests) [amytumc@gmail.com](mailto:amytumc@gmail.com)

### **Prayer**

O God, your Spirit is intertwined with ours in ways we can scarcely fathom: You are the vine, we the branches. As we remain immersed in your inexhaustible love and depth, we are given strength and joy in life. We praise you, God that you have given all people the precious gift of your Spirit. We pray that we might experience the Spirit's presence more fully, for we see but dimly, hear but faintly and can scarcely feel the brush of your sheltering wings. To those who remain suspicious of joy, come, O Spirit with love like wine. To those whose lives remain untouched by hope, come, O Spirit, bearing the whispers of dreams and visions. To and for those named above, come as gracefully as the cooling breeze and lift us up to new life this day. Amen

All these things we lift up to you as we pray together, **The Lord's Prayer:** (picture: Selinda Smith)

*Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be  
as it is in heaven. Give us this day  
our trespasses, as we forgive  
And lead us not into temptation,  
thine is the kingdom and the  
Amen*



*hallowed be thy name.  
done on earth  
our daily bread. And forgive us  
those who trespass against us.  
but deliver us from evil. For  
power and the glory forever.*

**Song** [Open the Eyes of My Heart](#) THANKS to: Kathy Niguídula, Hal Filiar-Aguilera, Selinda Smith, Brianna Ballenti, Karen Miglioretto.

### **Scripture Reading:**

Acts 2:1-18

**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.

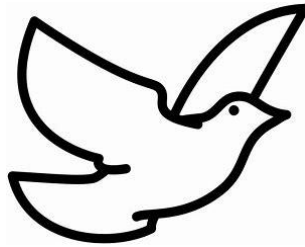
**5** Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" **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:

<sup>17</sup> '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 shall see  
and your old shall

<sup>18</sup> Even upon my servants,  
in those days I will pour  
and they shall



visions,  
dream dreams.  
both men and women,  
out my Spirit;  
prophesy.

### **Reflections for May 31 2020**

We find ourselves on this day of Pentecost with a mixture of feelings. On the one hand YAY! It is the birthday of the Church, thousands of years old! And on the other hand, it is a day when we notice ourselves isolated rather than gathering in big crowds like the very first Pentecost Day. None the less, we bring an exuberance and a joy with us this morning because we are together in other ways and even more important, we are joined in the Spirit of love, grace and hope.

Maybe we are tempted to spend time commemorating the Pentecost celebrations from the past, or even think back a few months when we spent our Sundays worshipping together in person. It is fine to think back to 'life before' and smile. But now, it is time to think ahead and smile for what is yet to come.

Today, we are joyfully lifted by the actions of God and the witness of Jesus over many Millenia, and, at the same time, we are joyfully lifted up to prepare for the future. At Pentecost, the disciples were stunned and unclear about what would come next. Along with shock, I can imagine, they simply wanted to go back to the way it was before. Who would blame them? It is scary to walk into a new future where everything is different and little feels as familiar as the days of old. Nostalgia is a respite for a time, but we are looking not for a bygone era, or rosy sentiment, we are literally looking for the birth a new global community. Right now, the Spirit of God isn't just nudging us, but in fact is propelling us forward in ways we can embrace together.

And contrary to some common rhetoric, the church is NOT closed. The Church is always open! The Synagogue, the Mosque, the prayer circle is always open, because God is never closed. God always acts in us and with a mighty wind blows us out the door when we become complacent. Not just for an individual here and there but the entirety of creation. Indeed, we are a global people of every nation, language, custom, and experience. And most especially with stand with the world's most vulnerable.

We find our Pentecost community together not in acts of strength or domination, or bombastic declarations, but in mercy, shared humanity, vulnerability and need. It isn't about being the same, but being appreciatively diverse and bringing love to bear each day. I find that expression of love is hard to employ in all news of the day, but it is our calling all the same.

The God given gifts of every language, of swirling winds of change, of fiery determination and of justice..... we are called to live these gifts out loud. I feel the fiery demand for justice for all colors, races, and genders. Let us gather the full expression of humanity and live together as God would lead us. Today especially, we join in prayer and protest for the senseless death of George Floyd, and a history of injustice that seems to be on an endless cycle of repetition. We must close our eyes, look at injustice and fear and racism where it lives and we need to make a stand for justice, truth telling and for an effective means of change right now. This very day the Holy Spirit claims us to be bold and steady.

Every day, I am blown away by the stark contrast of pay for “executives” and pay for the everyday essential workers. Essential workers who heal as frontline health care providers, who care for our babies, who teach our children, who pick and process our food are not paid enough, not protected enough, and don’t have adequate access to healthcare as a human right. The Spirit makes us bold with gifts to make change happen in so many arenas.

We are in a CRITICAL time in our nation. We have the responsibility to elect leaders who can name and change the social injustices that scream in our faces. We need women and men of science to teach and lead us with facts and swift action. We are desperate for leaders who can change our cities AND a global community with peace and true justice, climate care, and mutual wellbeing. And just like the sign in my yard reads:

*“All people are equal, love wins, black lives matter,  
immigrants and refugees are welcome, disabilities are respected,  
women are in charge of their bodies,  
people and planet are valued over profit and  
diversity is celebrated!”*

We are not alone. We are never alone. As we sketch the future, and arise from this time, we will find a new mooring. We will ground ourselves in the love of God. We are and will be called to be witnesses, truth tellers, and change makers in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Hoboken, Peoria, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Portland, Tualatin.

If you wish, jot down the ways our world, our community has and will change for the common good. Imagine how we can accomplish this together as we move on from these last months of distance. Close your eyes and feel the wind blow over you, be in-spired and be conspirators in this new life we fashion. Come down, O Holy Spirit and fill us with love, tenacity and purpose as we stand up for others and discover a new community together.

Rev. Amy

**Song [Come Down, O Love Divine](#)**

### **Offering time**

We invite you to continue your gracious offerings to our congregation. You can use Automatic Bill Pay, set it up with your bank and they will send it to the church. You can always send a check by USPS. If you would like to donate electronically,

Go To our website: [www.tualatinumc.org](http://www.tualatinumc.org)

On the opening page of the Website,  
you will find a blue link to donate on line.

**THANK YOU** so much for your generosity for the life of our church family, staff, and our ongoing ministry together. Mere words cannot express our deepest appreciation. With your help we will be able to pay our on-going bills and make employee payroll for the weeks ahead.

**Song** [Holy Spirit, Rain Down](#)

### **Prayer**

God of the wilderness, be with us as we wander through this desert of our lives. Keep us from running back to the safety of old assumptions out of fear. Walk with us as we grasp the gift of the Holy Spirit and the new life before us.

Lord of this morning. I awake to each new day with all of its possibilities, its uncertainties, its many faces and its underlying mystery. May I be able in your strength to move through this day free of fear, so that when I meet my neighbor or encounter the stranger, I may recognize your face.

**Song** [Fresh Fire](#)

Check out the Pentecost Collage on separate attachment. Thanks to all who sent in pics

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**Special thanks to our Music Director/ Pianist, Kathy Niguidula for our worship music selections for today.**

***Thanks to Selinda Smith for our worship flowers today!!***

I apologize for any ads that may appear before the songs, apparently youtube attaches them to make money. You can download an app to avoid it, I am told.

Amy

I invite any of you to offer any items for our worship together. Prayers, pictures, joys, concerns etc.

Email me; [amytumc@gmail.com](mailto:amytumc@gmail.com)





## Good for Your Soul



The staff at Brightview Senior Living in Warren, New Jersey have gone above and beyond to make sure their residents are feeling safe and happy. Vibrant Living Director Emily Martinelli said, "We've been doing FaceTime calls, going door to door giving out ice cream and have coordinated special events." Most recently, residents had a blast at a rock n' roll themed sock hop party filled with milkshakes for the elderly.

