

The First Congregational Church in Worcester

Sunday, June 8, 2025

10:00A.M.

Pentecost Sunday

The service of worship begins with the music of the prelude. Through its power and brilliance, may you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quietness, God's peace.

Prelude

Commune in Me/When I Lift My Heart to You in Praise ~ arr. Berry

Ringling of the Chimes

***Call to Worship**

We gather together because God has called us.

We wait in expectant awe for God's appearing.

We are together, old and young, rich and poor.

We have come, believers and skeptics, to this place.

On the first Christian Pentecost, there were surprises:

the rush of a violent wind and tongues of fire.

We tremble before the power of the Holy Spirit.

What will happen if we let the Spirit in?

On this Pentecost, we can receive the surprises of God.

We can be moved to speak and act in new ways.

With hesitant eagerness, we welcome the Spirit.

We will risk stepping into God's vision for us.

***Opening Hymn Insert**

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

Wind who makes all winds that blow gusts that bend the saplings low,
gales that heave the sea in waves, stirrings in the mind's deep caves
aim your breath with steady power on your church this day, this hour.

Raise, renew the life we've lost, Spirit God of Pentecost.

Fire who fuels all fires that burn suns around which planets turn,
beacons marking reefs and shoals, shining truth to guide our souls
come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and Power, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.

Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame, move within your mortal frame.
Make our hearts an altar pyre, kindle them with your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways,
speak that tongue which every land by your grace shall understand.

Thomas H. Troeger, 1983
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***Invocation**

Amazing God, who created humanity as one people, come among us now to reunify us. Out of our differences, create understanding and eagerness to explore the variety among us. Out of our narrowness, fashion a breadth of involvement to feed our spirits. May we dream dreams and see

visions. May we truly hear our sisters and brothers and respond to them with empathy and love, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Call to Transformation

How often this week have we pondered the manifold works of God? How have we cared for this amazing planet? What have we done to encourage life at its fullest and best? We violate God's purposes by our neglect as well as by overt acts. God invites our confession.

Prayer of Transformation

O God, we have built cities for ourselves. We have sought fame and fortune. We have rushed through our days with unseeing eyes, stopped-up ears, and dulled emotions. We are more often enslaved by our fears than freed by your grace. We demand proof of your existence but ignore the work of your hands. We reject Jesus Christ as an impractical visionary. Your Holy Spirit is unreal to us because we insist on being in charge. Have mercy on us, holy God, and save us from ourselves. Amen.

Words of Grace

God promises to us an outpouring of the Spirit. We will see signs and experience wonders that we have not observed before. When we call out to God, our healing, our salvation, will come. God approaches us with open hands filled with good things. When we are ready to be taught, God grants new insights and a deep, abiding sense of peace. Praise God!

Sharing of Announcements, Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Into My Heart

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
come in today, come in to stay; come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

New Testament Reading

Acts 2:1-21

Gospel Reading

John 14:8-17, 25-27

Sermon

"Breaking Through the Barriers"

Rev. Noelle Dattilo

***Hymn Insert**

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.

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

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.
Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

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

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.
Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

(James K. Manley (20th century), hymn-writer. Published in Everflowing Streams (1981). "Spirit," l. 1-4 (1978).)
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Invitation to Generosity

God has made us heirs of great abundance in order that we might use the resources entrusted to us to benefit humankind. We are children of God, called to share with the world the manifold works of our Creator. Our offerings are one expression of our commitment

Offertory

Andante Sostenuto ~ Lau

***Doxology**

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of wind and fire, may new life be breathed into the world because of these gifts we return to you. Grant us enhanced capacity to carry your revelation to others in ways they can understand. We seek to be to one another channels of your love and peace, both in person and through the outreach of our offerings. Amen

***Sending Hymn #245**

Gracious Spirit, Dwell in Me

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would gracious be;
and with words that help and heal would thy life in mine reveal;
and with actions bold and meek would for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would truthful be;
and with wisdom kind and clear let thy life in mine appear;
and with actions brotherly speak my Lord's sincerity.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would mighty be;
mighty so as to prevail where unaided man must fail;
ever by a mighty hope pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would holy be;
separate from sin, I would choose and cherish all things good,
and whatever I can be, give to him who gave me thee!

***Commission & Blessing**

All who believe in Jesus Christ are commissioned.

We are sent out to live and work as Jesus did.

We are sons and daughters of God.

We are heirs with Christ of all God has made.

The Holy Spirit has come to inspire and equip us.

We are empowered for greater works in Jesus' name.

We will praise our God while we have being.

We will testify to the good news of God's love.

The power of the first Pentecost is ours to claim.

The Holy Spirit offers us new ability to communicate.

We will heed the Spirit's promptings this week.

We will call on God's name day by day.

Amen. Amen.

***Benediction Response**

Hymn to Joy

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim, for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Ringling of the Chimes

***Postlude**

A Mighty Fortress ~ arr. Wilson

*** - Please stand in body or spirit**

All are welcome to join us at Coffee Hour in the parlor immediately following the service.

Let us extend a warm welcome to **Rev. Noelle Dattilo**, who is officiating this morning.