



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST + MAY 23, 2021

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn O Spirit of the Living God (SNECUCC)

Call to Healing and Opening Prayer

Hear these words from the Letter to the Romans, "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

When in this past week have not allowed the Spirit to help us in our weakness?

When have we not responded to the sighs of others too deep for words?

Creator Spirit and Giver of life,
make the dry, bleached bones of our lives
live and breathe and grow again
as you did of old.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole creation.

Come in rushing wind and flashing fire
to turn the sin and sorrow within us
into faith, power, and delight. Amen.

Sacred Scripture 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.'

Reflection

Renewing our Baptismal Promises

Dear friends,
on this day when the Spirit was poured out upon the church,
breaking down boundaries,
empowering disciples for acts of justice and witness and compassion,
let us renew the promises we made in baptism.

Do you promise again to be Christ's disciple,
to follow in the way of our Savior,
to resist oppression and evil,
to show love and justice,
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?
If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

Gracious God,
we thank you that in every age
you have made water a sign of your presence.

In the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters
and they became the source of all creation.

You led your people Israel through the waters of the Red Sea,
out of the land of oppression into a land of liberation and promise.

In the waters of Mary's womb your Word became flesh
and in the river Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized by John
and anointed by your Spirit
for his ministry of reconciliation and love.

We ask you, Loving God, to send that same Spirit upon this water.
May it remind us of how you refresh us by your love
and help us to drink from the deep wells of your grace
that we might be your disciples, living your justice and compassion.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Musical Reflection Every Time I Feel the Spirit (SNECUCC)

Call to Prayer Hear Us O Lord

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through
Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father/Mother/Creator,
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/sins/trespases,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/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.

Offering Bell Choir

As we share this musical offering, I invite you to hold your financial offering in your hand, envisioning the ministry and mission it will enable in the days ahead. At the conclusion of worship, please place your offering in the mail. (First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC. Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250) or go to www.myfcc.info)

Benediction Living Resurrection

May God bless you and keep you,
may God's face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
may God look upon you with kindness
and grant you peace. Amen.

May peace be with you, Beloved of God.