



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

Pentecost
May 23, 2021

Prelude

We are Called to Worship - Here we gather for melody and scripture, seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged. Here we gather to retell the ancient tales and wonder how God's story continues to unfold. Today we tell the story of Pentecost, the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples, and we ask ourselves where we see the Holy Spirit present our world today. Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again. We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story, and inspire others to see the Holy at work in the world. And we will ask ourselves if we are ready to share our own stories. Friends, welcome. Welcome to this place with all questions, doubts, wonders, and find here an invitation to experience something ancient and something new. May we be open to the Spirit. May we be open to learning and learning from one another. May we grow in faith, hope, and love.+ Let us worship!

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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, forever. Amen.

We Hear God's Word*Acts 2:1-21(CEB)*

2 When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting.³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them.⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

⁵ There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages.⁷ They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them?”⁸ How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism),¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!”¹² They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?”¹³ Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

¹⁴ Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!¹⁵ These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning!¹⁶ Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ *In the last days, God says,*

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

¹⁸ *Even upon my servants, men and women,*

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ *I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,*

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

²⁰ *The sun will be changed into darkness,*

and the moon will be changed into blood,

before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.

²¹ *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Meditation

Ignited by the Spirit: A Story to Tell

Song 2

Spirit of Gentleness

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation – As people of God, we are called by the Spirit to continue the work of Jesus and the disciples who sought to build up beloved community. We are each equipped by the Spirit with particular skills, gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences to continue that work. In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you have been gifted with and are open to offering this day to bring about God's beloved community on Earth?+

May Benevolence – Our May Benevolence Offering will go to support the UCC's Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering. This special offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

You can mail your offerings to our office. We check the mail regularly.

Doxology

We Give Thanks – Spirit of wind and flame, pour out your blessings into the gifts we bring this day—gifts of our resource, of our gifts, of our talents, of our very lives. Use these gifts that they might ignite the ministry to which you have called us and that they might be used to share your love far and wide. Amen.

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing – That Pentecost day, with the Spirit in the air, the disciples were suddenly clear about their stories and their intention to share their stories with the world. Maybe it was the rushing wind that had jolted them out of complacency. Maybe it was the dancing tongues of fire that landed on each one that ignited them to action. Maybe it was the hope that comes with having the Companion, the Advocate, nearby. Whichever it was, the disciples found their authentic voices and soon after discovered they had a story to share with the world. Go forth into this day, with the Spirit in the air, to share your stories of God’s love with the world. Go forth into the world in the name of God, the one who creates you; go in the name of the Jesus who shows us the way; and go in the name of the Holy Spirit, who is with us now and always.+

Postlude