



**RESURRECTION STORIES:
Unlock Yours
Pentecost**



Serve & Enrich
**Zion United Church
of Christ**

Pentecost: Transformed

Prelude

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Gathering

When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place and all of the many foreigners heard the witnesses speaking in their own tongue. Witness to us also in our several languages. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Speak in the language of our need. Let us hear how our deepest hungers, desires, and aspirations can be fulfilled by your goodness and in your service. Give us that good news again. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Speak in the language of our fear. Let us hear how our worries about the future, and about each other, and about ourselves, can find rest in your providential care. Give us that encouraging news again. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Speak in the language of our gratitude. Let us hear how our honest thanks relate us, not only to those with whom we live, but also to you, the Lord and Giver of life. Give us that enlarging news again. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Speak to us in the language of hope. Let us hear how our yearning and our expectations are not just wishful thinking, but response to your promise. Give us that good news again. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Easter Centering Song: "Because He Lives," 447

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus; he came to love, heal, and forgive; he lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.	Because he lives I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.
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Prayer—Jesus, our sibling and friend, we thank you for your example, which guides us as we share the good news of God’s love with a hurting world. Thank you

for protecting us, teaching us, and equipping us to partner with you to work for love and justice. Help us share the joy we've found in our relationship with you.

Empower us with the Holy Spirit, that we might testify to God's goodness.+

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.

****Hymn**

On Pentecost They Gathered, 334

Exploring God's Word for All Ages

An Ancient Story of Resurrection

Question: What images come to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit?

Story of Resurrection based on Acts 2:1-21

Paula Prange

Reader: They were all gathered in one place...

Pastor: We have learned that stories of resurrection are best witnessed in community.

Reader: From heaven there came the rush of a wind and it filled that place where they were.

Pastor: The wind of the Spirit has been blowing among us. Holy Spirit, you are welcome here!

Reader: Flames appeared and rested upon each of them, as their hearts burned with love.

Pastor: We have witnessed God's refining fire, changing lives and renewing hope.

Reader: They were speaking different languages but each could understand the other.

Pastor: Pain, suffering, as well as love and comfort are universal languages.

Reader: Some thought they were filled with new wine.

Pastor: It is possible to feel joy beyond comprehension when just one life is saved, when just one soul transforms.

Reader: But Peter reminded them of the words of the prophet Joel: “I will pour out my spirit on all people!”

Pastor: We believe the Spirit will revive us and we will dream dreams again and envision a better world for all people.

Reader: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

Pastor: Thanks be to the Living Word.

We Hear God’s Word—Romans 12:1-16 (NRSV)

Paula Prange

12I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Meditation

Transformed

Hymn

Spirit of the Living God, 492

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Just as everything given to Jesus comes from God, everything given to us comes from Jesus, the foremost human example for our faith. May we respond to that gift with joy, mindful of the ways God works in this church, into community, and in this world.+

Opportunities to Live Resurrected

May Benevolence—Strengthen the Church

****Offering Song:** “I Love to Tell the Story” (pew card)

**The Savior of our stories
has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story,
for others need it too.
To ev'ry one who's hurting
ring out the gospel call;**

**proclaim that Christ is risen
and grants his peace to all.**

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

We Give Thanks—Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.+

Hymn

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, 326

Benediction—Christ sends you out to proclaim God's good news! God has done great work *in* you. Now go and let God work *through* you! Amen!+

Postlude

Amen!