

Day of Pentecost

May 31st, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

WELCOME

**Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests
Request to contribute to online services through video**

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.**

²⁶ There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷ **These all look to you to give them their food in due season;**

²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ **When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit,[a] they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ **May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—**

³² who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³ **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

³⁵ **Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER —based on Ephesians 1:3-18

All glorious God, we give you thanks:

in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.
You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight.
You adopted us as your children in Christ.
You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins.
You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ.
You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance.
All praise and glory be yours, O God, and may we today know the richness of your grace,
enjoy the splendor of your gifts, And marvel at the wonder of your love. Amen

HYMN #446(81) “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

In spite of God’s love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways.
We close our hearts to God and disobey God’s law. Together let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Almighty God, we have seen your power and glory in the face of your Son, whom you raised from the dead and received unto yourself. By sending us your Spirit, you have shared that same power with us; yet we have turned it aside, trying rather to live by our own strength, on our own terms. We confess that we have not lived and witnessed according to your will.

Forgive our stubborn resistance, and fill us with the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead; so that we may rise from the ashes of our weakness, to the strength which you freely give us by your gracious and mighty hand.

LAMENT

You are invited to express in a journal or a piece of paper grief and frustration at the brokenness of the world. These could be personal, national, or global and do not have to be situations in which our community is directly culpable or blameworthy. We think especially of those suffering from COVID 19 and isolation; for the victims of violence and racism; for those suffering from abuse, and for those at risk financially due to economic restrictions... (A time for silent and personal prayer...)

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

God is a God of mercy, be at peace.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dear Jesus, you are the Word that was with God and was God, in the beginning. Be here now, through the Holy Spirit, and speak to us afresh. May we hear your words and may you create something new in our hearts. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 16:9-12

(introduce the hebrew feast of weeks (shavuot) - tied to Pentecost)

⁹ Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. ¹⁰ Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. ¹¹ And rejoice before the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name-you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you. ¹² Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.

Joel 2:28-29

²⁸ "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

SPECIAL MUSIC

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 2:1-13

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

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.”

SERMON The Spirit and the Church

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #440 (317) “In Christ there is no East or West”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **From the Heidelberg Catechism**

Q 65. It is through faith alone that we share in Christ and all his benefits: where then does that faith come from?

A. The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts by the preaching of the holy gospel, and confirms it by the use of the holy sacraments.

Q 66. What are sacraments?

A. Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them he might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and seal that promise.

And this is God’s gospel promise:

to grant us forgiveness of sins and eternal life by grace because of Christ’s one sacrifice accomplished on the cross.

Q 67. Are both the word and the sacraments then intended to focus our faith on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation?

A. Yes! In the gospel the Holy Spirit teaches us and by the holy sacraments confirms that our entire salvation rests on Christ’s one sacrifice for us on the cross.

Q 68. How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?

A. Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You know Lord, whether the worst of the pandemic has crested.
You know Lord, whether we will re-open our society quickly, safety or both.

Throughout it all, it is Your hand in control of the universe. We look to You for guidance, for comfort and mercy, and ultimately for our salvation.

We have learned, O Lord

That we can live without dining out
While others go hungry

That we can live without haircuts
While others may be homeless

That we can sleep soundly at night
While others struggle in an ICU.

Help us O Lord to appreciate the good things you provide and to share our abundance with others.

Help us, O Lord

To comfort the grieving
To feed the hungry
To clothe the naked
To nurse the sick and ailing
To treasure and protect all those around us
And help us to just BE THERE for others as the need arises.

Bless especially those workers who have for months now been on the front line of fighting this disease, tirelessly working, in spite of being tired. Surely they are storing up treasures in Heaven.

Lord, cause our elected leaders to think Your people, and all Your creation, first, before and instead of their individual interests. Hold the ones in a position of trust to keep that trust, to You and to us.

We pray for our country who is wracked with rioting over the malicious death of George Floyd. There are no words that have not already been said to describe this tragedy. Teach us grief that leads to understanding. And while it is shocking and terrible because we can see it on video, let us not forget those who are viciously slain who don't make the national news. Open our eyes to the dissonant echos of historic racism that reverberate all over our country today. Help us to repent as a nation and strive to heal.

Lord, embrace those of our faith community who especially need YOU right now:

And bless those who have been able to experience joy over these difficult months.
And we pray this in Jesus' name and offer our prayer to you as He taught:

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #399 (817) "We walk by Faith and not by Sight"

OFFERING

Let's close our worship by giving our gifts to the Lord!

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit we glory in Your mercy and Your generosity to all Your creation. As Your people, we strive to live by your teaching and become the people you want us to be, all to Your glory and honor. Initially you required sacrifice offered to you, but you also required us to take care of the poor, widows and orphans. Sacrifice without that charity was an offence to you. Now we show our love and devotion to you through love and devotion to Your creation, the poor, the widow and the orphan.

We collect your gifts, not from our excess but from our first fruits, for use in spreading Your Word, and Your glory, but also for helping those that are in need, of food, of money, of comfort, for the base needs of life.

Please remember FFPC in your giving. You can give online, through your own bank or through our website (www.ffpc.org). You can also mail any gifts, pledges or donations to the Church Office, 503 South Leroy, Fenton, Michigan 48430.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, thank you for our opportunity to be among Your people and bless these gifts for us to use for Your Kingdom activity. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

God declares, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh'!

You sons and daughters, prophesy!

Young people see your visions!

Old men and women dream your dreams.

Do not be shaken;

Let your heart was glad, and let your tongue rejoice

Let your flesh live in hope.

For God will not abandon your (my) my soul to Hades,

God has made known to us the ways of life;

God will make us full of gladness with God presence.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.