



We need  
to be apart,  
so we can be  
together again.

**St. Paul United Church of Christ**

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Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

**May 31, 2020**

**Pentecost**

WORDS OF GREETING: Hear these words: In the last days, says God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young people will see visions and your old people shall dream dreams. People of God, we have been baptized into one Spirit and one body through Jesus Christ. Let us worship God with joy.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES: As we light the altar and Christ candle, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

WELCOME: Blessing and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day.

WELCOME SONG

*No Matter*

# No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

F Dm Gm<sup>7</sup> C F F<sup>7</sup>  
 No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the

B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup> F Dm G<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup>  
 jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter

F Dm Gm<sup>7</sup> C F F<sup>7</sup>  
 who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup> F Dm Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> C F F  
 jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses Last time, Fine

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The God of the whirlwind and fire sweeps into our presence in this hour.

**People: Glory be to God who strengthens us and blesses all people with peace.**

Leader: God, who called all the world into being, calls forth new life in us today.

**People: Glory be to God, in whose creative purpose we are claimed and empowered.**

Leader: God, whose spirit unites all people in a common language of love, confirms God's gifts in us as we gather here.

**People: Glory be to God, who created light in which we can walk in confident expectation!**

Leader: Let us worship God!

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*On Pentecost They Gathered*

# On Pentecost They Gathered 334

$\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{A7}{E}$ 
D
G
A
 $\frac{A7}{C\#}$ 
D
 $\frac{D}{F\#}$ 
G
Asus
A7
D

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,  
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tied and a - mazed  
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,  
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

$\frac{D}{F\#}$   $\frac{A7}{E}$ 
D
Bm
 $\frac{A}{C\#}$ 
Em
F#
Bm
 $\frac{D}{F\#}$ 
G
Asus
A7
D

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.  
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.  
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.  
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A
 $\frac{A}{G}$ 
 $\frac{B7}{F\#}$ 
Em
Bm
 $\frac{Em}{B}$ 
Bm
 $\frac{Bm}{D}$ 
E7
A

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,  
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?  
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.  
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

$\frac{A7}{C\#}$ 
D
 $\frac{D}{C}$ 
 $\frac{G}{B}$ 
 $\frac{D7}{A}$ 
G
 $\frac{D}{F\#}$ 
 $\frac{G}{B}$ 
G
Asus
A7
D

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.  
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.  
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.  
 so peo - ple of all na - tions glad songs of joy shall raise.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God's Spirit is poured upon us, yet far too often we neglect the call of the Spirit. Let us confess our sin.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Generous God, you send us the Spirit of courage, but we have been afraid. You send us the Spirit of truth, but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of healing, but we cannot let go of our hurts. Holy Spirit of forgiveness, come to us again: shake our hearts, set our souls on fire with your love. Send us out into the world rejoicing in your power. We hold out to you all our particular burdens of guilt and sin, and we ask for your help to live the way of your justice and love. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: In Christ you were marked with the Holy Spirit, a seal of our redemption in Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit we become dead to sin and alive anew in Christ. May you be filled with the Holy Spirit so that you may have hope in new life and live fully within the Spirit's embrace.

**People: Amen!**

## HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -

lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT: HOMEMADE PINWHEELS!

At Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit in our lives. In both the Greek and Hebrew, the word for "spirit" is also the word for "wind" and "breath."

This week, we encourage you to make your own pinwheel. Once you are done, blow your breath upon it to make it spin OR take it outside and run while the wind spins it!

Let us pray: Spirit of the Living God, we thank you for filling us with your love, your peace and your joy. Be with us this week as we listen for your Spirit, your whispered word, in our lives. Amen.

### **How to Make the Easy Pinwheel** *Read all of the steps before starting.*

#### **Step 1: Project Preparation**

Gather the materials needed for making a pinwheel. If you are doing this project with a group of children, pre-cut the 6" (15 cm) paper squares.

#### **Step 2: Cut Square**

#### **Step 3: Cut**

Use the pencil and ruler to draw two diagonal lines, corner-to-corner, that cross at the square's center. Mark the center point and mark a point  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " (7 cm) from each corner on the diagonal line.

Cut on the diagonal line from each corner up to the marked point. Erase pencil marks, except for the center point.

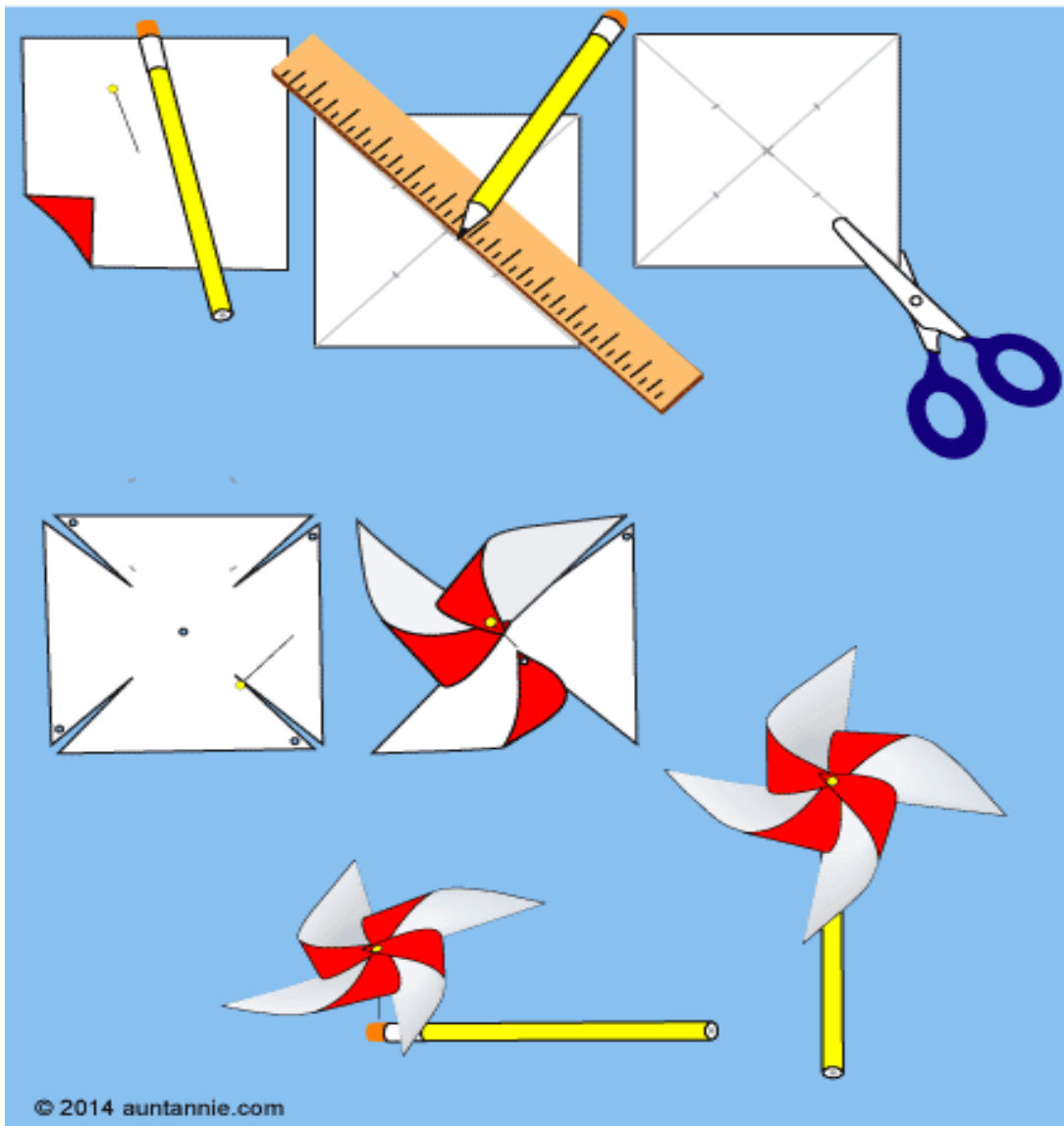
#### **Step 4: Assemble**

- Using the straight pin, punch a hole in the center and at every other point (about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the tip.)
- Poke the pin through one of the point holes and curl the point toward the center. Don't fold!
- Curl each pierced point, in turn, toward the center and poke the pin through the holes.
- Push the pin through the center hole of the pinwheel.
- Holding the pencil on a flat surface with one hand, push the pin into the **side** of the eraser.

## Step 5: Finish

You now have a pinwheel! Hold the pinwheel in your hand and swish it around. The pinwheel should rotate on the pin. Take the pinwheel outside on a breezy day and see it whirl like crazy!

**Tip:** If your pinwheel doesn't rotate freely, it is probably rubbing against the pencil. You can fix this problem by inserting the pin into the eraser at a slight upward angle, or by slipping a small bead onto the pin before inserting it into the eraser.



Cut a 6" (15 cm) square of paper.

Tip: Two-sided pinwheels can be made by gluing two printed squares back-to-back, or by printing on both sides of heavy paper (24- or 32-pound).

PENTECOST

326 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the wil - der-ness

call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,

stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,  
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand  
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,  
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



Em7      D                      Bm                      E                      A

then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;

D                      G                      A                      G                      Bm                       $\frac{D}{F\#}$                       D

and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Bm                       $\frac{D}{G}$                       Em7                      A7                      D                      A *to Refrain*

"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."  
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
 With bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.  
(adapted from Ann Weems Searching for Shalom; "Service of Worship for Pentecost")

Gracious God, Holy Spirit, giver and renewer of life, we place our trust in you. Your Spirit sets us free to accept ourselves and to love you and our neighbor. Through your Spirit, you bind us together with all believers in Christ's body, the church.

We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles, who rules our faith and life in Christ through scripture, who engages us through the Word proclaimed, who claims us in the waters of baptism, who feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation, and who calls women and men to varied ministries in this world.

We thank you that in our broken and fearful world your Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of people who have long been silenced, and to work with others for freedom, justice, and peace.

Through the gifts given to us by your Spirit, O God, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. Fill us, we pray, with your Spirit not only today but every day that we might be sparked with joy, inspired for service, ever-dancing with your holy Wind/Breath.

We thank you for the healing winds of your Spirit that pour upon all who are hurting, those who are recuperating, those whose lives have been torn apart by brokenness, addiction, and loss. In this season of Covid19, we pray for our neighbors. We pray for communities ravaged by this virus. We pray for physical, spiritual and mental healing. Pour your Spirit upon all of us, your precious children, as we navigate new ways to offer hope and healing.

Eternal God, we thank you that you do not leave us alone but place your word within us and in the midst of our life together. Hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers.

SILENCE

Holy One, give us courage and commitment to let your winds blow through us and to let your life be revealed among us. Empowered by your Spirit, may we care for the needs of all people and praise you day-by-day.

All of this we pray with the prayer your son taught us praying,  
**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.**

ANTHEM *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* William Dawson  
(YouTube.com; search *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* arr. William Dawson)

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke  
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine  
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Jordan river, is chilly an' cold  
It chills the body but not the soul  
There ain't but one train, upon this track  
It runs to heaven, an' right back.

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Down in the valley, when I feel weak  
It's when the devil, usually speaks  
Because he's crafty, and full of lies  
I need the Spirit to keep me wise.

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14.  
(From Eugene Peterson's The Message)

God grabbed me. God's Spirit took me up and set me down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones. He led me around and among them—a lot of bones! There were bones all over the plain—dry bones, bleached by the sun.

<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Master God, only you know that."

<sup>4</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones: 'Dry bones, listen to the Message of God!'"

<sup>5-6</sup> God, the Master, told the dry bones, "Watch this: I'm bringing the breath of life to you and you'll come to life. I'll attach sinews to you, put meat on your bones, cover you with skin, and breathe life into you. You'll come alive and you'll realize that I am God!"

<sup>7-8</sup> I prophesied just as I'd been commanded. As I prophesied, there was a sound and, oh, rustling! The bones moved and came together, bone to bone. I kept watching. Sinews formed, then muscles on the bones, then skin stretched over them. But they had no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath. Prophecy, son of man. Tell the breath, 'God, the Master, says, Come from the four winds. Come, breath. Breathe on these slain bodies. Breathe life!'"

<sup>10</sup> So I prophesied, just as he commanded me. The breath entered them and they came alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they're saying: 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us.'

<sup>12-14</sup> "Therefore, prophecy. Tell them, 'God, the Master, says: I'll dig up your graves and bring you out alive—O my people! Then I'll take you straight to the land of Israel. When I dig up graves and bring you out as my people, you'll realize that I am God. I'll breathe my life into you and you'll live. Then I'll lead you straight back to your land and you'll realize that I am God. I've said it and I'll do it. God's Decree.'"

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

- 1. What words or phrases captured your attention in this story?**
- 2. What might God be saying to you today in this story?**

**3. What might God be saying to our community today in this story?**

**4. What is the good news of this story?**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

(from Eugene Peterson's The Message)

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

<sup>5-11</sup> There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites;

Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,

Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene;

Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes;

Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

<sup>12</sup> Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it.

They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

<sup>13</sup> Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says,

"I will pour out my Spirit

on every kind of people:  
Your sons will prophesy,  
also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions,  
your old men dream dreams.  
When the time comes,  
I'll pour out my Spirit  
On those who serve me, men and women both,  
and they'll prophesy.  
I'll set wonders in the sky above  
and signs on the earth below,  
Blood and fire and billowing smoke,  
the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,  
Before the Day of the Lord arrives,  
the Day tremendous and marvelous;  
And whoever calls out for help  
to me, God, will be saved."

#### RESPONSE:

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!**

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT READING:

- 1. What words or phrases captured your attention in the Pentecost story?**
- 2. What might God be saying to you today in this story?**
- 3. What might God be saying to our community today in this story?**
- 4. What is the good news of Pentecost?**

#### SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pentecost: My all-time favorite church holiday. The birthday of the church. The coming of the Holy Spirit. The wind of God blowing over the face of the waters at the moment of creation and continuing today. The sending out of disciples (that means us!) to share God's message of love with the world.

Both of today's readings: Old and New Testament are Spirit-filled stories. In the first, the prophet Ezekiel is given a vision of dry, bleached bones. While Ezekiel was watching, God breathed life into those bones—and they were enlivened and alive: a metaphor that reminds us that God breathes life into our grief, our dry times, our isolation and loneliness, and our times when we are lost in the desert.

The story of Acts of the Apostles is the Pentecost story. If you were in my confirmation classes, you would read this story **NO LESS THAN THREE TIMES** over the course of the year. The Pentecost story is that important for disciples, for Christians, for those of us who love Jesus and love the church.

In the Pentecost story, the Jesus people were hanging out in Jerusalem, wondering what was next. Jesus had been raised from the dead. He had walked among them. Then, he ascended into heaven. The disciples were wondering, "Now what?"

To answer that question, God sent the Holy Spirit into the room of believers, touching them with a mighty wind and with flames of fire. Suddenly, these Galilean men were able to speak in languages from all over the world. And what did they do? They hit the highways and bi-ways to carry the message of new life in Jesus all over the world. They were on-fire for Jesus. They went out to change the world.

That is exactly what Pentecost does to us. We are reminded on this holy day, this holiday, that God fills us with his Spirit—sending us out to make a difference in the lives of others. Sharing Jesus' love with others. Breathing new life into that which has become stale and lifeless.

I have to say, I'm glad that Pentecost has landed in the midst of Covid19—serving as a powerful reminder that the Holy Spirit fills each of us in different ways to serve others in the midst of this global crisis. Here are some examples of what people are doing to make a difference (big and small!) while Covid19 rages around us:

1. Health care workers, custodians, grocery store clerks and stock people are risking their lives each day to keep us healthy and fed. This week I encourage you to send a card or call/video chat with one of these front-line saints.
2. People are donating their time and resources to keep front-line people fed in this crisis. Even here. Our area food banks and our

own Blessing Pantry work each day to make sure no one in our communities is hungry. With so many people out of work, food insecurity has risen exponentially.

3. Making masks! I know I've mentioned this before, but the thousands upon thousands of masks that are being sewn in living rooms, dining rooms and basements in communities all over our country to offer another layer of protection from this deadly virus.
4. Landlords throughout our nation have suspended rent payments, giving families and individuals a little more cushion each month.
5. Teachers and non-teachers alike have created online educational resources for children and adults. Free online art classes are everywhere. Museums are offering virtual tours. In the midst of the trauma of this virus, our hearts are being fed beauty.
6. Similarly, musicians are offering free living room concerts online to share their music and provide much-needed respite.
7. This pandemic has been devastating for people already suffering from mental illness. Counselors, doctors and therapists have been meeting with clients through FaceTime or Zoom to reach out to people struggling emotionally with the trauma around us.
8. People are simply staying at home. For here is the truth: isolating and quarantining ourselves is an act of love for our grandparents, those with pre-existing illnesses, and those who are essential workers. We stay home in order to keep this dreaded disease from gaining even greater footholds.

That is what Pentecost is all about my friends: Stepping up to the plate when a pandemic knocks us down, forcing us to see our world in new ways. Pentecost is about people so filled with the Holy Spirit that they were on-fire to share the love of Jesus beyond their own neighborhoods. Sometimes sharing Jesus' love can be as difficult as going to work each day at a hospital or nursing home or as simple as staying at home that others might live.

Jen Hatmaker in her book Interrupted: When Jesus Wrecks Your Comfortable Christianity: "I want the church to be great because we fed hungry mommas and their babies. I'd like it to be great because we battled poverty not just with our money, but our hands and hearts. I desire the greatness that comes from seeking not only mercy but justice for



those caught in a system with trapdoors. I hope to be part of a great movement with the Holy Spirit, who injects supernatural wind and fire into his mission. My version of great will come when others are scratching their heads and saying, “Wow, you live a really different life.” (pg. 83)

Similarly, Hugh Halter and Matt Smay (The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community): “Church must not be the goal of the gospel anymore. Church should not be the focus of our efforts or the banner we hold up to explain what we are about. Church should be what ends up happening as a natural response to people wanting to follow us, be with us, and be like us as we are following the way of Christ.” (pg. 203)

For us to live as Pentecost people, filled with the Holy Spirit, our lives need to be transformed in dynamic and powerful ways. If nothing else, this pandemic has reinforced this: the old ways are not working. We need to find new, innovative and relational ways to meet the needs of this extraordinary and difficult time. Because of Pentecost, WE are the ones Jesus calls to serve a hurting world. WE are the ones the Holy Spirit gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

My friends, Jen Hatmaker is right. Our comfortable Christianity has been wrecked not only by Covid19 but also by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to be on-fire as we spread Jesus’ love and justice in the days and weeks to come. Even when we return to worshiping in person, in the sanctuary or chapel, things will be different. WE will be different. How we do church will be different. How we engage our community will be different.

That’s not necessarily a bad thing. Our comfortable Christianity HAS been wrecked, but we are people of the resurrection. We are Easter people. We anchor our lives on Christ’s promise of new and the power of the Holy Spirit to create a new and dynamic community based on love, forgiveness, grace and justice.

The Holy Spirit is calling your name. How will you answer?

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home on planet earth, and the animals that live here with us. On this spring morning, we come gather in our separate spaces to worship God together and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to the world. Let us give generously and joyfully.

### DOXOLOGY

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

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**O God, we are made glad by the good news of your love for us and for all. We thank you for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for life. We thank you for your action in Christ by which our lives are measured, found wanting, and renewed. Help us to remember your gifts as we dedicate our gifts and lives to you. Amen.**

## HYMN

*We Are the Church*

# We Are the Church

*Refrain (Unison)*

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to -

geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,

all a - round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

1 The church is not a build - ing, the church is not a stee - ple,  
 2 We're man - y kinds of peo - ple, with man - y kinds of fac - es,  
 3 Some - times the church is march - ing, some - times it's brave - ly burn - ing,  
 4 And when the peo - ple gath - er, there's sing - ing and there's pray - ing,  
 5 At Pen - te - cost some peo - ple re - ceived the Ho - ly Spir - it

the church is not a rest - ing place, the church is a peo - ple.  
 all col - ors and all a - ges, too, from all times and plac - es.  
 some - times it's rid - ing, some - times hid - ing, al - ways it's learn - ing.  
 there's laugh - ing and there's cry - ing some - times, all of it say - ing:  
 and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

# BENEDICTION

And now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to do far more than we ask or imagine—be glory and honor in the name of Christ Jesus whose love knows no bounds. Go into the world filled with the Spirit of the Living God! Amen.

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

### Pass the Love

*♩=95*

F Gm<sup>7</sup> F Gm<sup>7</sup> F/A F/B<sup>b</sup> Gm<sup>9</sup> C<sup>7</sup>

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go-ing on your way.

F Gm<sup>7</sup> F Gm<sup>7</sup> F/A F/B<sup>b</sup> Gm<sup>9</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in— ev - 'ry way.

Fmaj<sup>7</sup> Dm F/G F/C

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our— God.

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

In many of the resurrection stories, when Jesus appeared to the believers, the first thing he said to them was, "Peace." Christ's peace is for everyone, everywhere. Let us share that peace with joy!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today's altar flowers were to be given** in loving memory of Robert Wilson by Carol Wilson.

**June 7 Communion-Pick up is Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am-Noon, Herman St.** If you are unable to get out, but would still like communion, please contact the church office (419-629-2502) and we'll do our best to arrange delivery to your home.

**Blessing Pantry-is open 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm Monday-Friday and 5:30pm-7:30pm Tuesday's. All Donations Welcome-Thank you!** We have placed a metal can outside the East Educational Building door for donations.

**Building Entrance-St. Paul** is accessible by the East Educational Building door, Monday-Friday 10:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please ring the doorbell, wait outside the doors so staff may assist you. We are currently taking everyone's temperature, asking you to sanitize hands and shoes. Thank you!

**Mailbox-**We have installed a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. The box is locked and will be checked often. Thank you!

**Daily Devotions-**Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will be airing on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

**May/June Upper Rooms-**have arrived! Please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

**Thursday Evening Vespers-**One of the most difficult parts of the Covid19 pandemic is our inability to gather as a congregation. Yes, many of us log onto Facebook for weekly worship and daily devotions, but the interactions with each other is limited. Thursday's at 6:30pm, Pastors Dee

and Becky will host Thursday Evening Vespers. Vespers are traditionally an evening prayer service. We plan to gather via the online site called Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, you can click on or log onto this website: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78283243697?pwd=cTFzYVIPWjZRZ0dEQUFDT015TlljUT09> \*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: [berbstrang@stpaulnb.org](mailto:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org) Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

**Meeting ID: 782 8324 3697 Password: 2mSAg1**

The plan is for us to check in with one another, hear scripture, and pray together each week. Any questions? Contact Pastor Becky

### **United Church Of Christ Disaster Relief-May's Monthly Mission**

Throughout the month of May, our designated monthly mission will go toward disaster relief efforts within our denomination. In 2005, immediately following Hurricane Katrina, the UCC Disaster Relief Team sent Pastor Becky to Houston, Texas to coordinate relief efforts among the area UCC churches as busloads of folk from New Orleans were arriving daily. After three weeks in Houston, Becky wrote a rough draft job description for the person who would ultimately be hired fulltime to coordinate relief efforts in Houston and New Orleans. Wherever natural disaster strikes, the United Church of Christ is present—offering immediate assistance as well as the long term work of rebuilding. Your generous giving to May's monthly mission will ensure that those whose lives are impacted by disasters will have shelter, food, and hope.

**Coffee with Pastor Becky-**To keep social distancing guidelines, Pastor Becky plans to be at the St. Paul Playground Shelter House on **Mondays June 22, 29, July 13, 20, 27** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Becky will provide the coffee and water (and possibly) homemade snacks. All are welcome!

### **Worship Schedule for June**

**June 7.** Worship with Holy Communion at 10:15 via Facebook Live.

**June 14.** Worship via Facebook Live at 10:15. Our six confirmands will receive the Rite of Confirmation.

**June 21.** Worship via Facebook Live AND in person in our sanctuary at 10:15.

**June 28.** Worship via Facebook Live AND in person in our sanctuary at 10:15.

**Confirmation Celebration!** On Sunday, June 14, we will confirm the baptisms of our six confirmands during our Facebook Live worship at 10:15 a.m. Our young adults will read their faith statements. Their parents will bless them and we will pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon each as they continue their Christian journey. Congratulations!!!!

**Becky's Book Club**-On Sunday, June 28 at 4:00 p.m. Pastor Becky will host a Zoom Book Club, offering us the opportunity to discuss Kim Michele Richardson's The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek. Copies of this book have been ordered. If you live locally and would like a copy, please contact Pastor Becky and she'll get the book to you. If you do not live locally, please contact Pastor Becky and she'll order a copy to be sent to your home.

Zoom login information: Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88216315511?pwd=TjlUWk95SEZ0blJvYlhhQ0NPRXpFUT09>

**Meeting ID: 882 1631 5511            Password: 875813**

Contact Pastor Becky if you would like an email version of this invitation to make logging in simpler. All are welcome!

**E-Giving @ St. Paul**  
**3 Different Ways to Give**

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [stpaulnb.org](http://stpaulnb.org)

**Give+ App** – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

**Text** – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

**How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))**

➤ For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)

- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

**Once a text amount is sent:**

**Registration Link-** Sent via text the first time a donation is made.  
Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

**Donation Confirm-** *Sent via text each time a donation is made.*  
Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring  
or refund to cancel this donation.

