



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

Pentecost Sunday

CCLI License # 2839486

May 19, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, Holy, Spirit, come.

Come and move in and through us.

Whispers of hope around the corner of despair; shouts of joy at a graduation:

You are around us in every place.

The sweet breath of a baby, the remembrances of the elderly:

You speak to us through every person.

Soft breezes on a summer's day; bitter winds through frozen trees:

You are with us in every season.

The gentle lullabies of a parent; the birds twittering us awake:

You sing glad songs to us.

The sudden rush of newness throwing open our sheltered fears;

the gale of justice breaking down the walls of oppression:

You sweep us up in your commitment to transform all lives, all places.

In every breath, in every song, in every moment, in every tongue:

Come

Dance

Enflame

Engulf

Transform us!

GATHERING PRAYER (By Joanna Harader)

Holy One, For all of the ways you speak to us –in rushing wind, in dancing flames, in words we understand, and in all that transcends language, we give thanks. Give us courage to speak your love, everywhere we go, to everyone we meet. Come, Spirit, Come. Amen.

***HYMN: "On Pentecost They Gathered" #289**

MUNICH

CALL TO CONFESSION

We say we want change, but prefer the comfort of what we have; we long for new life, yet turn our backs on those around us. We could open our arms to others, but close them tight around our fears. Let us confess our lives to our God, as we hope for the Holy Spirit to come and dance among us, as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Your Spirit moves over the waters, Gracious God, but we prefer to splash in the puddles of temptation. You would breathe life into us in every moment, but we hold our breath until we turn blue, wanting to get our way. You would give us the words to bring hope to the despairing, to offer healing to the broken, and to share hope in the places of anger and violence, but we turn them in accusations towards those around us.

In your mercy, forgive us, God of gusty grace. May your Spirit sing in our hearts, so we may invite others to dance in joy with us. May your Spirit be the still, small voice which silences the shouts of fear and worry all around us. May your Spirit sweep us off our feet and into the arms of Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Savior, our Companion. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In every breath we take, there is the Spirit;
in every word we speak, there is the Spirit;
in every heart we touch, there is the Spirit;
in every person we welcome, there is the Spirit.

In forgiveness, we are given the words to speak; the courage to reach out to others; the open heart to offer others, the breath of life to share with those around us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused the people, come to us now to fill our ears with the sound of your breath, fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other, fill our hearts with your good Word. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷In 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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

ALL GOD’S CHILDREN: Are Circles Empty or Full?

RESPONSIVE PSALM 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

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

²⁶There 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;**

²⁸when you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in his works--

³²who looks on the earth and it trembles,

who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

^{B34}May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!**

GOSPEL READING: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

²⁶"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{4b}"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Created with Spirit"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" #291

SPIRIT

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Holy Spirit was sent to increase our compassion and to make us glad to spread good news by caring for those in need. May you enter into the discipline of giving as a work of the Holy Spirit within you.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks" #240 - chorus only

ALLELUIA NO. 1

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.

***HYMN: "We Will Go Out with Joy" #539**

WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

CHARGE

God's Breath of hope has torn open the shutters of our hearts,

So that we may open them to all who long for grace and life.

Justice is the strong wind poured into us by the One who is Brother to the forgotten.

We will go into the streets of our neighborhoods to serve our siblings.

A new community is being shaped by the Holy Spirit,
made up of those from every place, every tongue.

**We will join hearts with those we meet,
we will learn songs of joy in new languages.**

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Nancy Rolando
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Randy Marohn
Coffee Hour: Nancy Rolando
Greeter(s): Tasevski Family

Volunteers Next Week 5/26:

Liturgist: Sue Schurr
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Billy Welch, Jessica Schurr
Coffee Hour: Bonnie Sibley
Greeter(s): Bonnie Zimmer

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140** or the church office at **716-692-1319**.

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 19

9:30am Faith Formation (All Ages)
10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, May 20

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
5:00pm-7:00pm Lilly Grant Q&A
7:00pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, May 21

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, May 22

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, May 23

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Hearts4Worship
6:45pm Bell Choir
7:15pm Choir

Saturday, May 25

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, May 26

9:30am Faith Formation (All Ages)
10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

