

**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2021

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

†PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Come, Holy Spirit. We remember your outpouring. On the day of Pentecost, you settled like tongues of fire on all flesh, both young and old, displaying your glory to pilgrims from every nation.

Come, Holy Spirit. We seek your refreshment. Wash over us with peace that passes understanding, with gratitude for our daily bread, with love for our neighbors and for ourselves, and with courage for the journey set before us.

Come, Holy Spirit. We await your transformation. Send us out with power to love those whom the world calls unlovely, to strengthen those who have faltered along the way, to bind up the brokenhearted, to employ your gifts in the struggle for justice.

Come, Paraclete. Be our Helper as we help the neediest among us. Be our Comforter as we comfort those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Be our Advocate as we advocate for the voiceless and the parentless. Change us, we pray. Move us and send us into the world under your power, for your glory. Amen.

WELCOME

Welcome to worship on this Pentecost Sunday. I am Rev. Rebecca Luter, the pastor of Farmington Presbyterian, and we pray you experience God's loving presence with you through this time of worship whether you are here physically in person or gathering with us digitally on YouTube Premier.

- Our visual theme on our livestream this morning is new life. We would love for you to send your pictures and videos in to church@farmingtonpres.org to be included in worship. Our theme for next Sunday is .
- After worship this morning, we are gathering outside for fellowship and for service. If you are in the Germantown area and are able to come, please do. We will be assembling Hygiene Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance so that when a disaster strikes, and our neighbors have to abandon their homes, they will have the basic hygiene items they need. We will also have cupcakes to celebrate Pentecost, the

birthday of the church, and we plan to be here until at least 1 this afternoon, so come join us if you can.

- Now, let us share our prayer concerns and greet one another on the chat with “Christ be with you!” as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Like a dove, come, Holy Spirit,

Descend on us. Reassure us that God’s vision for creation will be accomplished and give us peace.

Like a breath, come, Holy Spirit,

Fill us. Renew within us the hope of transformed lives.

Like a fire, come, Holy Spirit,

Ignite our passion. Spread through us by your power beyond our control or imagining a desire to do God’s will.

Like rain, come, Holy Spirit,

Wash away our selfish concerns. Open rivers with in us of love.

Come, Holy Spirit, come,

For we have come hoping to receive the Holy Spirit in this place.

*PENTECOST PROCESSIONAL

(RIBBONS, BIBLE, WATER, BREAD AND CUP, WIND CHIMES)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We turn to God in prayer not because we are pressured or coerced, but because God invites us. We answer God’s invitation not because we are virtuous and devout, but because of God’s grace. We come to God for mercy, confessing our sins against God and our neighbors. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Your Spirit blows with fresh winds of change and possibility and we close the windows. Rush into our lives again. Your Spirit comes with torrential rains of love and we build dams to hold it back. Rush into our lives again. Your Spirit kindles the fires of justice and we offer the extinguisher of contentedness with the status quo. Rush into our lives again. Blow with change and open us to possibility. Rain with love and overflow our

reserve. Burn with justice that refines and inspires. Melt and mold us, then fill and use us. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

In Christ, you are a new creation. Your old life is gone. You have been reconciled through Christ and forgiven. Refreshed and renewed by the Holy Spirit, be fruitful, vital disciples. Amen.

As God's forgiven and reconciled children, let us stand and join together in a declaring our faith using the portion of the Brief Statement of Faith of the Presbyterian Church that pertains to the work of the Holy Spirit:

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Our Lord said this is the truth: unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. In that kingdom, the most humble who are most like children are the greatest. Let us look at our Scripture through the eyes of children.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us through your Word this day, O Lord. And by the work of your Holy Spirit form us to be examples of your amazing grace, your redeeming love, and your life-changing power. Amen.

FIRST READING

R o m a n s

8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as children, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

”This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

SERMON “Can These Bones Live?”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

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.

RESPOND TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We give of our tithes and offerings in joyful gratitude to God. Paul wrote that, “Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn’t give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver.” For those who are worshiping in the Sanctuary, would the ushers please come forward? For those worshiping at home, you are invited to offer your gifts to God by clicking “Give” on our website. With rejoicing, let us offer our resources and our lives to God’s work in the world.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “”

***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**

Holy God, we rejoice in the gift of your Holy Spirit, that ignites the desire in our hearts to seek you, that draws us together to live as your hands and feet in the world, that fills us with compassion, grace, and love. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to your purposes in the world through Farmington’s mission by the power of your Holy Spirit. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***HYMN – No. 462 “I Love to Tell the Story” Verse 3**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem
hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when, in
scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, ‘twill be the old, old
story that I have loved so long.
*I love to tell the story; ‘twill be my theme in glory to tell the old,
old story of Jesus and his love.***

***BENEDICTION**

**May God, who breathed life into creation and who is as close as
your next breath, be your delight.
May Christ Jesus, who came that we might have life abundant, give**

hope to your dreaming,
and may the Holy Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day
of Pentecost, set your hearts ablaze.
Go now to do God's will in God's world. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

†“A Prayer for the Day of Pentecost” by Jay Blossom in Presbyterian
Outlook.

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