

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

23 May 2021 • 10:00AM
The Day of Pentecost

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC! While we refrain from meeting in person during the COVID-19 crisis, we continue to share in worship together, virtually. This bulletin will guide you through the process of joining us in worship.

HOW WE WILL WORSHIP TOGETHER

Today's service will be held over Zoom, which is videoconferencing technology available free of charge online. Zoom allows us to see one another throughout the service. To prevent background noise, you will be put on 'mute' for the majority of the service. Even when we can't hear you, you are invited and encouraged to speak your part in the responsive readings, sing boldly, and participate fully.



PREPARE FOR OUR ONLINE WORSHIP

1. Visit zoom.us/download to find the Zoom app for desktop, laptop, or smartphone
2. For desktop computer users, make sure your webcam is plugged in
3. To practice, join a test meeting: visit zoom.us/test and click "join."

If you are not able to use a smartphone or computer, you can also call in via any regular phone (see below).

JOIN WORSHIP ONLINE

Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/954580657>

Or join Worship by Phone:

Call (646) 876-9923. When prompted, enter this meeting ID: 954 580 657

You may also watch the service on our YouTube channel, which has better audio quality (though we'll miss visiting with you in the Zoom meeting!):

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/

REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

Be thou a bright flame before me,
Be thou a guiding star above me,
Be thou a smooth path below me,
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today - tonight - and for ever

— Columba (?521-597) Irish monk and missionary in Scotland

“It is no accident that Christians have long associated fire with the Holy Spirit. An insular church is an oxymoron; churches “on fire” with the Spirit cannot contain themselves, any more than a forest fire can stop itself from catching. Fires spread, not according to plan but according to the availability of combustible tinder. Christianity likewise has a boundary-crossing, outward-reaching, other-oriented impulse modeled by Jesus himself, formally taken up by the church when the disciples “caught fire” with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But the first sparks occurred weeks earlier, when Jesus mysteriously appeared to the disciples behind locked doors on that first Easter evening, leaving them with the astonishing command: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21).”

— Kenda Creasy Dean, *Almost Christian:
What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church*

Without Pentecost the Christ-event – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now.

— Henri Nouwen

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because I see everything by it.”

— C.S. Lewis

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

GREETING

INTROIT

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Acts 2:1-4; 16-18)

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

“... This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In 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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.’”

OPENING RESPONSES

The Day of Pentecost is here:

the day when the flames of faith dance in our hearts.

The Day of Pentecost is here:

**the day when our babbling speech
becomes the Good News for the world.**

The Day of Pentecost is here:

**the day when compassion
is seared into our souls.**

The Day of Pentecost is here:

let the people of God rejoice. Alleluia!

✠ HYMN #285

“Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song”

BRIDEGROOM

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We yearn for change, but hold close the comfort of what we have. We long for new life, but let the Holy Spirit blow past without following. We could open our arms to others, but that would mean releasing our fears. Let us pray for the Spirit to come and dance among us as we unburden ourselves together, saying:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

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, 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 often stay silent, or use words that lack compassion.

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 that 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.

We pray in silence

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.

RESPONSE IN SONG # "Spirit of the Living God"

**'Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.'**

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RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

ONE: O Holy One, how many and how varied are Your works!

MANY: In wisdom You have made them all;

The earth is full of Your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious,

With its creatures beyond number

Living things both small and great.

There go the ships,

And the sea monster that You formed to frolic there.

These all look to You to give them their food when it is due;

When You give to them, they gather it up;

When You open Your hand,

They are filled with good things.

When You hide Your face,

They are terrified;

When You take away their breath,

They die and return to their dust.

When You send forth Your breath, they are created;

And You renew the face of the earth.

May the splendor of the Most High endure forever;

May the Almighty rejoice in the works of creation.

God is the one who looks on the earth and it trembles,

Who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Creator as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to the Eternal One,
As I rejoice in my God.
Hallelujah!

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Where most weeks we have a “Thought for Young Minds,” today we have a special message from the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. Debby Kirk offers us beautiful images of the Spirit of God moving through each of us, connecting us with UCC churches all through this region and land.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts*)

MODERN TESTIMONY: “When We Breathe Together” *Jan Richardson*

When We Breathe Together:
A Blessing for Pentecost Day

This is the blessing
we cannot speak
by ourselves.

This is the blessing
we cannot summon
by our own devices,
cannot shape
to our purpose,
cannot bend
to our will.

This is the blessing
that comes
when we leave behind
our aloneness
when we gather
together
when we turn
toward one another.

This is the blessing
that blazes among us
when we speak
the words
strange to our ears
when we finally listen
into the chaos
when we breathe together
at last.

ANCIENT TESTIMONY: Acts 2:1-21

SERMON “The Grace that Scorches Us” *Abby Gackenheimer*

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

ONE: The church exists because the Holy Spirit blew and burned into the hearts of people ready to respond. The same Spirit that transformed the lives of our ancestors is gusting and

sparkling still. We open ourselves by giving from the heart, knowing that God will use all — our tithes and offerings, our heart and mind, our body and spirit — to build the beloved community.

**ALL: Let us offer our gifts with grateful praise,
and commit them to God's purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more;
One God of grace, whom we adore! Amen.**

✠ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**These gifts are but the bare bones of who we are, and what we could offer.
So, move over them, filling them with muscles, and sinews, and breaths of
our lives, so they might become living gifts of hope and grace to others. In
Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN #301

**"Let Us Build a House"
vs. 1, 2, & 5**

TWO OAKS

BENEDICTION and **SUNG AMEN**

POSTLUDE



Participants in Today's Celebration

Worshippers:

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Parthians, Medes, Cappadocians, etc:
Samuel Lord Kalcheim (*Greek, Italian*)
Terre Lefferts, Jennifer Weigel (*French*)
Alex Bercy (*Creole*)
Betsy Beck, Emily Elliot (*German*)
Pastor John Nelson (*Spanish*)
Karin Noyes (*Norwegian*)

Crescendo Choir and soloists,
Choirs of Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock
and the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC
Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*;
Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *music director*

Kathy Mera, *reader and online host*
Loriann Chevremont, *flame-waver*
The Rev. Abby Gackenheimer, *guest preacher*