

First Presbyterian Church
Rouses Point NY Champlain NY
Virtual Worship May 31, 2020- 9:00 A.M.
Order of Service-Pentecost

Greeting

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (unison)

Rushing wind of the Spirit, breathe new life into us! Blazing flame of the Spirit, burn away our fears! Comforting presence of the Spirit, heal our wounds. O God, open our hearts and minds and souls to hear your word as if for the first time, help us experience anew the surprise and joy that your presence can bring us. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and for evermore.
From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord be praised.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, Our God, it is by your Spirit you gave birth to the Church and empowered Christ's disciples to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Forgive us we pray, when we doubt the power of your Spirit, for we confess we have doubted. We confess we have failed to make use of many of the gifts you have given us, and we have failed to love as Christ loves us. Open our ears, our hearts, and our minds, to listen to your voice. Renew us, we pray, as individuals and as a church, so that we may glorify you in our witness and service to Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Readings and Proclaiming God's Word

Old Testament: Isaiah 44:1-5

New Testament: Acts 2:1-4

Sermon "The Spirit of the Master"

*Affirmation of faith: Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

*Benediction

Isaiah 44:1-5 ¹"But now listen, Jacob, my servant, Israel, whom I have chosen. ²This is what the LORD says- he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. ³For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. ⁴They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams. ⁵Some will say, 'I belong to the LORD'; others will call themselves by the name of Jacob; still others will write on their hand, 'The LORD's,' and will take the name Israel.

Acts 2:1-4

² When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues¹ as the Spirit enabled them.

SERMON SUMMARY-ACTS 2:1-4

FOR CHRISTIANS OF ALL LANDS AND NATIONS, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIFE AND WORSHIP. HOWEVER, THE SPIRIT'S WORKINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD.

SOMETIMES WE DO NOT EXPECT MUCH OF GOD'S SPIRIT, FOOLISHLY THINKING WE ARE IN CHARGE AND DOING FINE ON OUR OWN. BUT OTHER TIMES CHRISTIANS FORGET GOD'S SPIRIT USUALLY WORKS WITH US, RATHER THAN COMPLETELY CONTROLLING US.

FOR EXAMPLE- ONE SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP A WOMAN TOLD HER PASTOR HIS SERMON WAS A GOOD ONE. IN HUMILITY HE REPLIED- "IT WAS NOT ME, IT WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT." BUT THE WOMAN DISAGREED SAYING, "OH NO, IF IT WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT THE SERMON WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT BETTER."

THE TRUTH IS- GOD'S SPIRIT TAKES OUR SKILLS AND TALENTS AND ENHANCES THEM BY WORKING IN US AND WITH US. TODAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY, THE DAY MANY SAY THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS BORN. IN FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE THAT WAS ISSUED BY THE PROPHETS, AND AFFIRMED BY JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT FORMED AND EMPOWERED CHRIST'S CHURCH.

PSALM 127:1 ATTESTS TO THE NECESSITY OF THE ACTION OF GOD'S SPIRIT, FOR THERE IT IS WRITTEN: "UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THOSE WHO LABOR BUILD IT IN VAIN...."

TRULY, IT WAS THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOT UPON ONE OR TWO PEOPLE, AS HAPPENED IN THE PAST, BUT UPON THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS THAT MATTERS.

CHRISTIANS NEED THE SPIRIT OF JESUS TO FILL AND GUIDE US SO WE MAY SERVE AS HIS WITNESSES AND REPRESENTATIVES IN THE WORLD.

BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES MUCH MORE THAN JUST GIVE US SKILLS AND GUIDANCE. AS THE BOOK OF ACTS REVEALS, CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS WERE CHANGED BY THE SPIRIT ANOINTING THEM, AND STAYING PRESENT WITHIN THEM.

GOD, AFTER ALL, IS ALL ABOUT CHANGING US FROM REBELLIOUS CREATURES INTO HIS FAITHFUL SONS AND DAUGHTERS. THINK ABOUT THE FIRST APOSTLES AND THE OTHERS WHO WERE TOUCHED BY SPIRIT ON THAT SPECIAL PENTECOST.

BEFORE THEIR FILLING -THEY WERE CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED, BUT AFTERWARDS THEY WERE JOYOUS AND BOLD, FOCUSED AND CONFIDENT. IT WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WAS, AND CONTINUES TO BE, GOD'S AGENT OF CHANGE-BY TRANSFORMING BELIEVERS.

TRULY PENTECOST MARKS NOT ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL, BUT ALSO THE NEW WAY GOD CONTINUES TO SEND HIS SPIRIT. SINCE THAT DAY, IT IS NOT ONLY SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE THE INSPIRATION AND COMFORT OF GOD'S SPIRIT, BUT ALL WHO LOVE JESUS.

FURTHERMORE, THE SPIRIT IS GOD'S CONTINUING ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE. THEREFORE WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT WE DO NOT NEED TO SERVE CHRIST AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS HIS CHURCH ALL BY OURSELVES. TRULY ON OUR OWN THE CHURCH HAS LITTLE POWER, BUT WITH GOD'S SPIRIT, WHO BINDS US TOGETHER AND EMPOWERS US, WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS FOR THE LORD.

JESUS' WORDS IN **JOHN 14:27** REMIND US ABOUT ONE OF THE PRECIOUS GIFTS HIS SPIRIT BESTOWS UPON US: "PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU..." THESE WORDS AND THE PROMISED PEACE OF CHRIST IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO HEAR, AS WE CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE PANDEMIC, AND BEGIN TO SLOWLY OPEN THINGS UP AGAIN. BIBLICAL PEACE, WE SHOULD NOTE, IS NOT BASED ON AN ABSENCE OF NEGATIVE THINGS. INSTEAD IT IS BASED ON THE PRESENCE OF GOD, FOR THE PEACE OF CHRIST, IS NOT CIRCUMSTANTIAL, INSTEAD IT IS RELATIONAL.

LET US PRAY: ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO JESUS' DISCIPLES, HIDDEN IN AN UPPER ROOM IN JERUSALEM. A VIOLENT WIND AND TONGUES OF FIRE WERE THE SYMBOLS OF THE NEW THING HAPPENING IN THEIR LIVES. MAY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT BURST INTO OUR LIVES TODAY, CALMING OUR FEAR, INSPIRING OUR FAITH, AND FILLING US WITH HIS PEACE. IN OUR SAVIOR'S NAME WE GIVE THANKS AND PRAY. AMEN.