



*The People of God, Gathered As*  
**CHRIST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*together with*  
**MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*on*  
**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**  
May 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



*WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE.*

*The Gathering of God's People*

*Thoughts for Today:*

***“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, Dutch Catholic priest, 1932-1996*

***“We do not need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come: he came on the day of Pentecost. He has never left the church.”***

*~John Stott, Anglican priest and theologian, 1921-2011*

*Greetings and Announcements*

*The Prelude*

*The Opening Prayer (Unison):*

**Holy God, you spoke the world into being. Pour your Spirit to the ends of the earth, so that your children may return from exile as citizens of your commonwealth, and our divisions may be healed by your word of love and righteousness. Amen.**

*The First Christian Pentecost: Acts 2:1-21*

*\*Hymn:*

*“Holy Spirit, Light Divine”*

*~ No. 392*

*The Word with Young Christians*

*WE ARE RECONCILED WITH GOD.*

*The Invitation to Reconciliation*

*The Confession of Our Sin (Unison):*

**Almighty God, we dare to come into your presence today. We dare to come—not because of anything we have done, but because we are confident in the assurance we have in our faith in Jesus—that by his death and resurrection we can come into your presence and live a life reconciled to you in his wondrous and magnificent love.**

**Come, O God, and pour afresh your life-giving water into our hearts with a gushing and generous torrent of grace. And as you do, we will be ready with our hands and hearts spread wide open, ready to receive your forgiveness again, and again, and again. For the sake of Jesus our Savior and by the promise and power of his Spirit we pray. Amen.**

*~Silence for reflection and personal confession~*

*The Assurance of Pardon*

*Response:*                    “Spirit of the Living God”                    ~ No. 389

**WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS.**

*The Sharing of our Joys and Concerns*

*The Prayer Versicles:* God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A Period of Silent Prayer*

*The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (Ecumenical Version):*

**Our Father in heaven**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" ~ No. 390

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US.

*The Prayer of the Day (Unison):*

**Perplexing, Pentecostal God, you infuse us with your Spirit, urging us to see visions and to dream dreams. May the gift of your presence find voice in our lives, so that our babbling may be transformed into discernment, and the flickering of many tongues light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice. Amen.**

*The Readings from Scripture:*

The Old Testament Lesson --- Numbers 11:24-30

The Epistle Lesson ----- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

The Gospel Lesson ----- John 20:19-23

*The Sermon:* "A KINDER, GENTLER SPIRIT"

WE RESPOND WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT.

*\*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Gifts, Including Our Offerings to*  
"STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH!"

*\*Response:* ~TUNE: No. 390

**I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
no angel visitant, no opening skies;  
but take the dimness of my soul away.**

*\*The Closing Prayer (Unison):*

**Today we pray, O God, that you will keep pouring out your Spirit onto and into your people, just as you have done in ages past. Don't let us be overwhelmed by blaring noise or threatening winds, but stir us gently with quiet tones and gentle breezes. Do not let us get so accustomed to your pleasant presence that we fail to be moved by having your Spirit in us and among us. May the persuasive power of your kind and gentle Spirit be the driving force in our lives, and may all our words and all our deeds bear witness to your goodness. We pray with hope and confidence in Jesus' name. Amen.**

camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

**1 Corinthians 12:3b-13:** No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

**John 20:19-23:** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

\*Hymn:

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

~ No. 391

\*The Benediction

\*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude*

WELCOME to all who worship here on this Day of Pentecost. We're glad you're here! Please feel free to join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.”

The Rev. Dr. Larry Smith, Pastor

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Jane Earnst, Lay Reader

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *We will be receiving your gifts both of money and of non-perishable food items for the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry on every Sunday in June. Our goal for 2023 is to support the work of Harvest of Hope with at least \$3,000. Thank you!*

Sun, June 4: TRINITY SUNDAY

Worship at Mt. Zion UCC

*There will be a congregational meeting for the members of Mt. Zion UCC immediately following worship.*

Tues, June 6: *Volunteers are needed at Harvest of Hope Food Pantry from 11:15 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.*

*DAY OF PENTECOST, May 28, 2023*  
*Year A, Revised Common Lectionary*

**Acts 2:1-21**: 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. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, 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. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

**Numbers 11:24-30**: So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the