

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 am MAY 19, 2024

PENTECOST

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION



“Too many churches have become mausoleums for the dead rather than coliseums of praise for a living God. They have lost the spirit of Pentecost! They have lost their enthusiasm. They have lost their joy for Jesus and find themselves suffering from what William Willimon calls “Institutional and spiritual Dry Rot.” If the Church is to survive the next millennium it must recapture some of the praise and enthusiasm it had two millennia ago.” Carlyle Fielding Stewart

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Berceuse"

Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Day of Pentecost is here! God's children have gathered.

All: We are transformed into God's family by
God's Spirit revitalizing our spirits.

One: Come, Spirit of adoption, and open our hearts to all our siblings:

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Come, Spirit of peace, and calm our trembling hearts:

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Come, Breath of God, and overturn our conventional lives:

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

* HYMN PH 128 *“On Pentecost They Gathered”*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spirit of Truth, we confess that we have not loved one another as you have loved us. We are quick to find fault and speak ill of others, sins that undermine the fellowship of believers. We have let strangers and seekers among us feel like outsiders. We have not done our best to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of the church.

Forgive our casual disregard of Jesus' command to go and make disciples.

Forgive us for not using faithfully the powerful gifts of love and service you gave the church at Pentecost.

Forgive us for ignoring your Spirit, as you have nudged us forward -- to choose to live our faith in our daily lives.

Renew a right spirit within us, that we may carry the love and mercy of Christ from this place into our weekday community and to the world beyond.

(A Time of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Leader: Those who are in Christ are a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

ALL: All this is from God with whom we have been reconciled through Christ. Thanks be to God!

* SUNG RESPONSE OF JOY *“Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayer”* (vs 1)

*Spirit divine, attend our prayer,
And make this house your home;
Descend with all your gracious pow'r;
O come, great Spirit, come!*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

FAMILY CHOIR ANTHEM

“Spirit, Come Down”

by Mark Hayes

LISTENING FOR THE WORD BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *“Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me”*
PH #322

*Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.*

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 56:1-8

Leader: Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

People: Happy is the mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and refrains from doing any evil.

Leader: Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say, “The Lord will surely
separate me from his people,” and do not let the eunuch say,
“I am just a dry tree.”

People: For thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant,
I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Leader: And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to God, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his
servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast
my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them
joyful in my house of prayer;

People: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on
my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all
peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of
Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING 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 ones shall see visions,
and your old ones 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.’”

MESSAGE

Pentecost Prayer: A House of Prayer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD WITH OUR LIVES

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Adapted from Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA), 10.4*

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, men, and people 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!"

***HYMN PH # 319** *"Spirit"*

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY *"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"* Bell Choir

*** SONG OF GRATITUDE** *"Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayer" (vs 5)*

*Spirit divine, attend our prayer;
Make a lost world your home;
Descend with all your gracious pow'r;
O come, great Spirit, come!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION OF PENTECOST OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS and CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

*HYMN PH #325 *“Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayer”* (vs 2-4)

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

We thank our Worship Leader Ron Hoffman
and the Ushers/Greeters, Tim Voss and Judy Prendergast.

Liturgical Resources:

PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal and STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal

Call To Worship: Adapted from Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies blog

Call To Confession: Rev. Anna George Traynham

Prayer Of Confession: Adapted from Teddy Ray

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON
Week of May 19, 2024**

- Sun. 5/19 Pentecost
9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer
9:00 am Faith Formation Classes (last one until Fall)
9:00 am Worship in the Chapel (last one until Fall)
9:30 am Family Choir Practice
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
No Youth Group
- Mon. 5/20 10:00 am Wired Word
- Tue. 5/21 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Rummage Sale Cleanup
7:00 pm VBS Planning Team Meeting via Zoom
- Wed. 5/22 7:15 pm Session
8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom
- Fri. 5/24 1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group (Parlor)
- Sun. 5/26 9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer
10:00 am Worship in Sanctuary (One service only in summer)
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Girl Scouts
No Youth Group

E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!*

E-Giving is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:



Scan Me

Scan the QR Code to donate through your smart phone.
OR

Go to the church website, fpcnewtonnj.org and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

More comfortable using a check? No problem, just drop a check in the mail.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support!

Our Staff

Interim Pastor Heather Morrison-Yaden
heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com

Associate for Family Nurture Colleen Duffy
colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org

Office Administrator Janet Lasko
admin@fpcnewtonnj.org

Treasurer Jane MacDonald
treas@fpcnewtonnj.org

Organist Ann Socha
Bell Choir Director Melinda Kline
Choir Director Cate Pasculli
Child Care Heather Woods

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Church Email Address: admin@fpcnewtonnj.org

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ

www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

Our Sunday service can also be found on our YouTube channel
sometime after 3 pm.