

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Pentecost Sunday
Online Worship for May 31, 2020**

This service is one of two options during the Coronavirus time of physical distancing in which worship is happening only online. At 10:45 a.m. on Sundays we will livestream through ZOOM an informal conversational time of worship like our First Light Worship. You can find the link to that on our website or Facebook page: fpcboise.org or facebook.com/fpcboise

For this service you have the printed bulletin resource to walk you through worship with accompanying YouTube links for pre-recorded video content. We are glad you are “here” with us! Feel free to give us a shout-out to tell us you worshiped by emailing Pastor Andrew at andrew@fpcboise.org and “signing in” for worship.

Prelude *Aria* Gordon Young

Link - <https://youtu.be/INQSqjYnCtw>

Welcome

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Link - https://youtu.be/BYbQC_2uF48

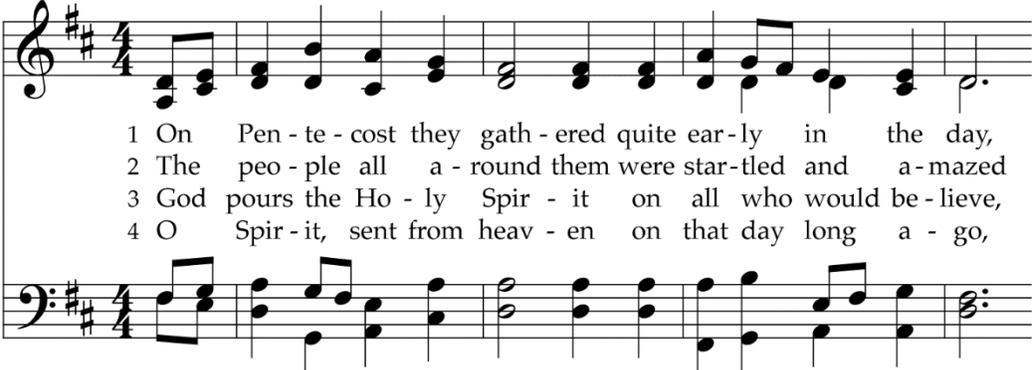
Call to Worship

Come to Jesus, you who are thirsty. Alleluia!
Drink deeply of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!
Let your heart overflow with the living water. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Let us worship the Lord our God together. Alleluia!

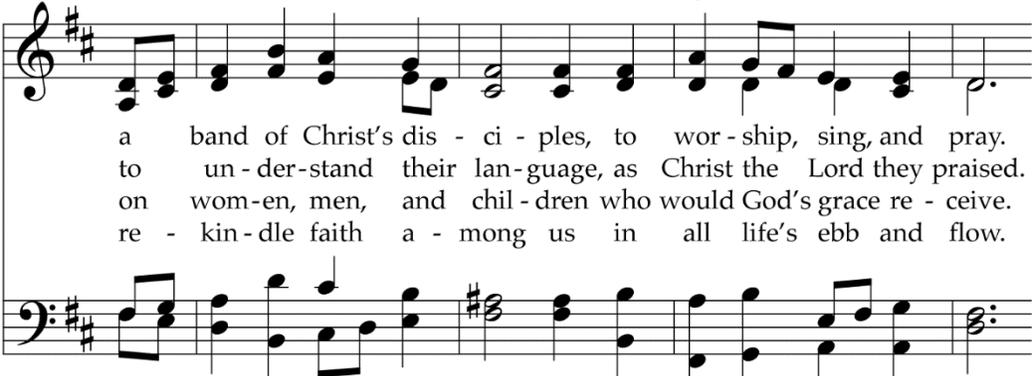
***Hymn 289 *On Pentecost They Gathered* MUNICH**

Link - <https://youtu.be/QvjaFnPF1uM>

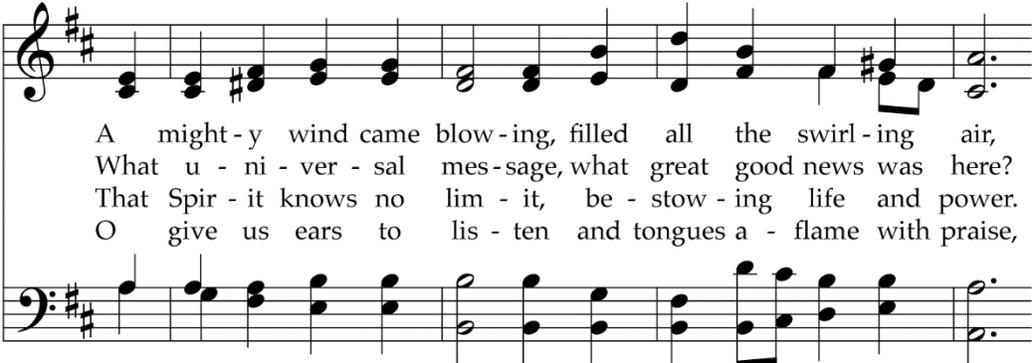
289 On Pentecost They Gathered



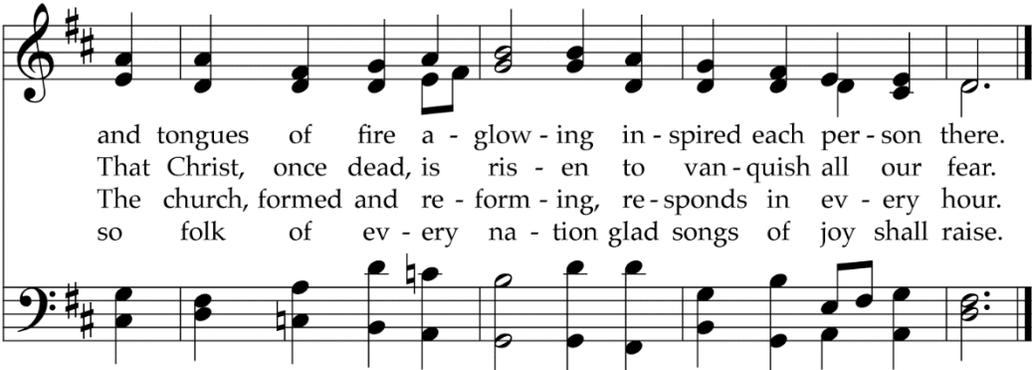
1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,



a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.



A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,



and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

This narrative and interpretive text was written to fill what the author perceived as an unfortunate gap in available hymns concerning the Holy Spirit in general and Pentecost in particular. The setting of a 17th-century German tune is from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

Prayer of Confession

God of new creation, we confess that we have failed to trust your bountiful goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit you brought forth the earth and its creatures in abundance. Yet, we hoard earth's resources and refuse to share your gifts. We dishonor your generosity by withholding our giving to those in need. We betray your kindness by dealing harshly with our enemies. We disregard your compassion by severely judging the sins of others. By the power of your Spirit renew our hearts and free us from sins that we may enjoy the fullness of your blessing upon all creation. Lord, have mercy on us... (Silence) Forgive us, O God, and move us to trust, that we may boldly live your grace and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Friends, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. But to say we are sinners goes too far. Our identity rests not in our brokenness but in God's love. Know that, whatever you believe separates you from God, God's love is more than enough to bridge the gap. Jesus died for you, rose for you, lives and reigns in power for you. Jesus is praying for you. The good news of all that is? We are forgiven. You are forgiven. So be at peace.

Link - <https://youtu.be/drS7nqMGNBk>

Time for Children/Celebration Chapel

Link - <https://youtu.be/UBjRl4xVJOg>

Anthem *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* arr. Arlen Clarke

Link - <https://youtu.be/M4TlokD35RU>

Prayer and Scripture reading

Link - https://youtu.be/glMSWG9Vj_0

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us in the language of our hearts, that we may hear your Word and answer your call with confidence. Amen.

Listen to the Word

Acts 2:1-8, 14-18, 42-47

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Reflection on the Word and Life

Link - <https://youtu.be/gmue2wZtpzk>

“Spirit Driven: A Pentecost Sermon”

On one hand, this is a very non-Pentecost Sunday of worship. It is right there in the first line, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” And right now during COVID that is a big NOPE.

So... can this really be Pentecost? Which is a version the larger question: can we be the church during quarantine?

I believe one of the gifts of COVID is point out that many of our Church practices have become idols - including worship. Our anxiety is pointing out a lack of depth to our faith in the Holy Spirit. The church’s foundation is not our building – it is not even in our gathered state. The church’s foundation is the connection of the Holy Spirit to transcend space, time, and consequence and make us a part of God’s mission and ministry is that still on the loose.

In the history of the Church Pentecost (which means fifty) was a harvest festival (The Festival of Weeks) celebrated by the Jews 50 days after Passover. In this Hellenistic period, it also became a time of restoration of the Noah Covenant – God’s commitment to preserving the life of all things. Pentecost may be a gathered moment in our scripture but it’s a not a celebration of the gathering, but of diversity and scatteredness! The Jewish Diaspora are the Jews scattered across all the known nations. We celebrate that they now call home all manner of nations and all manner of languages. And God is at work collectively among them in their individuality. Again, Pentecost is a celebration we make together, but not of the togetherness. Togetherness is not - nor ever was –the goal. It is our interconnectedness when we are apart and different that the Spirit drives us towards. The power of the Holy Spirit to create bridges and unites us as one across all manner of natural (and good) divides. We are many – apart... and yet one. True for the Jewish Diaspora and true today of the Church.

Pentecost is like a heart-beat. The heart – as a muscle, pulls blood in and then sends it back out. If the blood stays in the heart – we die. When we are scattered we become agents of abundant life. The Church is a heartbeat of divine grace. We are gathered – not as the goal of being – but as means to our goal: being scattered again. Our witness is not strongest in a building or a gathering of people who already agree with our Christian witness. Our witness to good news is most potent when we are scattered out in the world that needs to remember and celebrate the tenuous and hard-to-see interconnections that hold us together as one across our alone-ness. We are gathered to be reinvigorated, restored, and then: re-sent.

Spirit-driven into the world to give witness to abundant life.

COVID stole our status quo. It never stole our heart. In fact, it may have given us an opportunity we needed to realize that we were stuck. All the blood was swelling our heart and not going out to do what we are called to do – be the scattered Church, the life-blood of creation. Rather than imagine right now all the things we cannot do – we are facing a “Pentecost moment” to say: what can we do, and do quite well, with what is available to us in imagination and love. Do we trust the Holy Spirit enough to imagine that without a building, without large gatherings, without status quo worship... we are still the Church?

In the end of the Acts 2 it lists all manner of discipleship activity: breaking bread, fellowship, generosity... it never once mentions worship, temples, or buildings. I don’t believe that means worship wasn’t important. But it isn’t listed. Worship was a part of all those things. An entire life orientation to God’s good creation. But it wasn’t a one-hour experience in a set building, with set liturgy, and set group of people. And it certainly wasn’t the end-all and be-all of the church.

Pentecost “explodes” our worship and our imagination to be the Church in the world in new ways: the Spirit-driven scattered Church in the way of Jesus Christ. The question before us is: how we do that given the healthy and safe practices of pandemic quarantine? Because nothing that was happening before cannot happen now. It simply has to happen differently. And it would be a failure of imagination, creativity, and love for us to simply throw up our hands and say: its all on hold.

We are the Church. Every bit the Church. Even when we are not all gathered in one place. Perhaps we are even more the Church right now because of that – God’s Spirit-driven witnesses to abundant life. Thanks be to God.

***Affirmation of Faith** (adapted from the Brief Statement of Faith)

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!”

***Doxology** (Tune: Old Hundredth, Hymn 607)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

You can make an online donation to the mission and ministry of FPC Boise at www.fpcboise.org/donate or mailing cash or check to the church office.

Prayers of the Community

Link - <https://youtu.be/nQXdR5HDMQY>

The Lord’s Prayer (traditional)

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.

Hymn 629 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee ST. AGNES

Link - https://youtu.be/o92a_y7FsDo

***Charge and Benediction**

Link- <https://youtu.be/AiW76iHYeds>

Postlude *Prelude in Classic Style* Gordon Young

Link - <https://youtu.be/xbrX47hnwAU>

Leading Worship

Rev. Dr. Andrew Kukla
Ryan Dye, Minister of Music
Eric Noyce and Veronica Blake, Vocalists

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee 629

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee
 2 Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
 3 O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart,
 4 But what to those who find? Ah, this
 5 Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou,

with sweet - ness fills my breast. But sweet - er far thy
 nor can the mind re - call a sweet - er sound than
 O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how
 nor tongue nor pen can show. The love of Je - sus,
 as thou our prize wilt be. Je - sus, be thou our

face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.
 thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.
 kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
 what it is none but his loved ones know.
 glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

The sweetness celebrated in this anonymous 12th-century Latin poem is not cloying or sentimental; it is more like an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope and healing. The best-known 19th-century translation is set here to a tune composed especially for these words.