

MAY 23, 2021

PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heavens, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored to thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

- One: Spirit of the living God, visit us again on this day of Pentecost.
All: Come, Holy Spirit.
One: Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,
All: Come, Holy Spirit.
One: Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,
All: Come, Holy Spirit.
One: With speech that unites the Babel of our tongues,
All: Come, Holy Spirit.
One: With love that overlaps the boundaries of race and nation,
All: Come, Holy Spirit.
One: With power from above to make our weakness strong,
All: Come, Holy Spirit. Let us worship God together!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Reverend Jack McAnlis

Spirit of God, you are the breath of creation, the wind of change that blows through our lives, opening us up to new dreams and new hopes, new life in Jesus Christ. Forgive us our closed minds, which barricade themselves against new ideas, preferring the past to what you might want to do through us tomorrow. Forgive our closed eyes, which fail to see the needs of your world, blind to opportunities of service and love. Forgive our closed hands, which clutch our gifts and our wealth for our own use alone. Forgive us our closed hearts, which limit our affections to ourselves and our own. Spirit of new life, forgive us and break down the prison walls of our selfishness, that we might be open to your love and open for service in your world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

- One: People of God, the Spirit of God's truth has come upon creation and upon you. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. By the power of the Holy Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being, let us proclaim the good news of the Gospel:
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

RESPONSE to GOD'S GRACE — *Glory to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION — *Invocation* - text and music by Craig Courtney

Trio

*Come Holy Spirit; Come gentle Dove;
Descend upon us now in truth and love.
Bring light where there is falsehood,
Deliver from confusion;
O come to us again, we pray.*

*Come, Holy Spirit; Come, Breath of God;
O breathe life where there is death and sin.
Reveal the Father's will and glorify the Son;
And lead us into all truth, we pray.*

*O come, thou Flame of Fire, empower us to do Thy will.
Convict us of unrighteousness.
Return us to our first love and help us as we pray.
Purify us today.*

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 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."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

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 and men 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 — *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure.
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

CELEBRATION of RICH DRABB

Loving God, we thank you for our friend, Rich. May he be richly blessed in all that is yet to come. And may he enter this next chapter knowing that our blessing and love go with him, and that your unwavering love will surround him each and every day. Amen

POSTLUDE — *Here I Am, Lord*

HERE I AM

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.*

*I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.*

*They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My heart will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

QUESTION *for* REFLECTION

- How is God's Spirit moving in your life today?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Patricia Guth – Organist

Trio: Carol Carpenter, Miriam Carpenter, and Maureen Kyle

Video Ministry Volunteers

Photos may be found on unsplash.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Please note all announcements for Sunday bulletins are due by noon the Tuesday before they are to be published. Please email announcements to Bulletin@MPCusa.net.***

MPC NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The MPC Nominating Committee would love to hear from you! We are in the process of discerning God's will for the next chapter of leadership in the life of our church. If you would like to nominate someone who may be particularly gifted to serve as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee in the life of our church, please send their name(s) to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Dan Jones, at dtjpenn@gmail.com. We can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Habitat for Humanity needs MPC volunteers in Bristol, Chalfont and Warminster. MPC has a history of supporting Habitat for Humanity, both financially and "hands on" and they need our continued support!

Faith Build 2021 is a project of Habitat for Humanity and has designated Bristol Borough as one of its locations. This is an opportunity for faith groups and congregations based in Bucks County to come together and put their faith into action. Let's make MPC one of those congregations!

There are many ways and levels in which MPC (that's you!) can get involved:

1. Join a painting crew for the day in Bristol (through May) or provide a prayer or lunch for the day.
2. Assist at the Restore location in Warminster to unload trailers of furniture and/or put the furniture together.
3. Assist at the Restore location in Chalfont in preparation for its move to Warminster.

If you have questions, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or hrh1453@gmail.com.