

St. Andrew Worship

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Zoom Meeting ID: 831 688 4211
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May 28, 2023
Day of Pentecost
Sunday at 10:30 AM

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: www.aptopresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcement

Introit *“O For A Thousand Tongues”* St. Andrew Hand Bells Choir

*Call to Worship (Responsive) *by Beth Merrill Neel*

A wind from God blew over the face of the waters,
And the voice of God spoke from a burning bush,
Jesus breathed peace on the disciples,
And the Spirit of God, like little flames, rested on all who gathered.
So God’s Spirit moves among us this day.
Let us worship God.

*Hymn 289

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

*On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire a glowing inspired each person there.*

*The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.*

*God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.*

*O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (Responsive)

Can you bottle a breeze? Can you blow out a forest fire? Can you help but breathe?

For those times we stifle your Spirit, O God; For those times we ignore your whispers and shouts; For those time when we turn away from your wonders and miracles: Forgive us.

The breeze is loosed on the world. The fire is consumed. We breathe deeply, for indeed, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

(Time for silent reflection)

Response: ***“Gloria Patri”***

Anthem

“Hymn of the Spirit”

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

“Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”

*Hymn 290

“O Day of Joy and Wonder”

O day of joy and wonder! Christ’s promise now fulfilled: the coming of the Spirit that holy love has willed. Our Lord in human body to mortal eye is lost, yet comes in flame upon us at blessed Pentecost.

The world, in sheer amazement, the truth must now declare: that those who once were cowards are brave beyond compare; and tongues, which could not utter their faith in Jesus’ name, defy all persecution God’s glory to proclaim!

We too may know your power; your courage makes us strong. Your love, your joy, your patience can all to us belong. Come now and dwell within us, O Comforter divine. Come to our hearts, and keep them; there let your brightness shine.

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

God of All Power, Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts with a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Help us to hear your voice, to see your ways, and to receive with joy your truth. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

First Lesson:

John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Second Lesson:

Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Sermon

"Pentecost, An Extension of Jesus"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation (Unison)

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!" Amen.

Offertory

"Celtic Grace"

St. Andrew Hand Bells Choir

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

God of wind and flame: set us on fire this morning as we celebrate the explosion of your Holy Spirit coming into the world on the Day of Pentecost! Remind us that the gift you gave that day was not just the gift to speak in different tongues, but also the gift of hearing and comprehension. May your Holy Spirit keep us attuned to the voices all around us, to those who need us to be bearers of your love and compassion, and may these gifts we give help us, through your church, meet those needs. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 291

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Refrain { *Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.* }

You moved on the waters; you called to the deep; then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing, "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

Refrain

You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand; and you goaded your people with a law and a land. When they were confounded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill; then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still. And down in the city, you called once again when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes; from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams. Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

Benediction