

# Order of Worship for at Home Use

## Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!

We are GLAD YOU are HERE!

We pray that you are blessed as you worship, that God will provide you with all hope and mercy as you enter into His Presence.

As the joyful people of God, we continue to worship our Risen LORD, separate, but together, as God's family. In this time of separation, we continue to turn our hearts to God as we worship His holy name. Today is **Pentecost Sunday**. The day in the liturgical year when we celebrate and focus on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the life She infuses into our lives and the life of the church.



As we worship you may want to set up your worship space and decorate with the colors of fire, red, yellow, orange, blue... light candles and wear red. You will see the sanctuary decorated with balloons this week as we worship. This day marks the birthday of the church... maybe this is a good opportunity to bake a cake to celebrate.

If you or your children would like to color some decorations, here are some coloring pages for your meditation and contemplation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1STiJxYtwzgy037ejOJ112UZyfR1kYvig/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ae4-3tBQed3TN\\_W0dFnxjTMVvF\\_wHzn/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ae4-3tBQed3TN_W0dFnxjTMVvF_wHzn/view?usp=sharing)

I pray blessings will be abundant as we enter into God's grace together in worship, and that Holy Spirit fills each of us with holy fire and a real sense of God's presence and peace.

Always, Pastor Dana

If you wish to worship via the video click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROGLj02DdRA>

## We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" arr J. Sanborn  
Dr. David Dorway, organist  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myJeXrRdncg>

Welcome Pastor Dana Pope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5MLZSAnC8U>

Call to Worship based on Psalm 104  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Td2ILR4\\_Es](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Td2ILR4_Es)

Our Lord has created an amazing world  
full of wild and wonderful creatures and sites.  
Each one made by His hand, as the Spirit moved.  
We sing God's praises.  
We lift our eyes and we see what You have made  
And together we look for Your fingerprints.  
Release your Spirit-wind, Great God,  
create new life in - and - around us.  
Replenish and renew us for the sake of Christ,  
And in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Let us sing songs to the Lord as long as we live!  
Every day sing praises to our Holy God.  
Let us worship God!

Hymn "The River is Here" by A. Park  
Kathy Koch and Savannah Scarlett  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njOCfEwxnHw>

Sharing the Peace of Christ

***The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you...  
and also with you.***

*In this time of social distancing it is important for us to remember that in Christ we are connected to all who believe in Jesus in every time and place. As the world continues to be isolated, and many are feeling anxious, as Christians we share the peace of Christ as a way to offer hope and the joy of Christ. Again today we use the familiar words, "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you... and also with you."*

*Now, or after your time of worship, reach out via text, email, phone or video call, to someone outside of your home extending the invitation to enter into the peace of Christ with our faith community.*

*Praise God, that His peace is with us, always!*

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tg\\_eBeAeI3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tg_eBeAeI3s)

*Spirit of the living God, as we come into Your presence today and we ask that You would awaken us from our slumber. Speak loudly to our deaf ears. Touch our eyes that they might be opened to the way You see us our neighbors and this world. And put the burning coal to our lips that we might speak truth and life to a world - a people - in pain. Give us words of love and life and justice and peace.*

*This week has brought more death and more violence. Hear our cries, Lord. Come, Holy Spirit, rattle the rooms in which we are hiding - shake the tired foundations until unjust ideas and institutions crumble, break the rules that keep You out, and then lift from the dust and rubble a new creation.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, enter our lives, whisper our names and scatter Your gifts of grace with wild abandon. Give Your silent strength to all imprisoned and let Your fire be a sign of liberty. Come, Holy Spirit! Help us find ourselves in places where we can help. Help to bring Your word and freedom to the poor, the lonely or sick, the fearful, the oppressed, the outcast. Great God, help us to work for peace in our lives and in the world.*

*In these moments we ask that Your Spirit would fill us with light, casting out all darkness or shame or fear or pride. We pray that You would illuminate the truth in us, that as we see clearly the things we have done and that we have left undone, we would turn from our ways and come back to You. Forgive us. Wash us clean and create in us a new and right spirit. Mold us into the people that You created us to be. Grant us energy, perseverance, and love.*

*We pray these things in Jesus' name, and with and in the power of Holy Spirit as we pray together saying: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

## **We Listen to God's Word**

Hymn/Praise

Jesus Loves Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63z5hCd7bc>

## Children's Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkqCbPMvJr4>

Today the church celebrates its birthday! Happy Birthday Church of Jesus Christ! It is on this day, Pentecost, that we remember the Spirit of God came to the followers of Jesus and made them a family called the Church. In the children's sermon the children were to see a birthday cake and think about whose name should be on that cake. Of course the child's name should be on their birthday cake as birthday's celebrate our lives and remind us we belong to a family and people who love us. So it is with the church. Today it has a birthday and our church is our family. Everyone who wants to be a follower of Jesus is welcome in our family and has a place. Today the children are challenged to think of ways they can celebrate their church family. Make a card, tell someone in the church family "happy birthday, I am happy you are in my family."

## Special Music

"The Blessing" by Carnes/Elevation Worship/Jobe  
Kathy and Dave Koch and Savannah Scarlett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NC45C9c8PM>

## Reading of the Word

Acts 10:23-33, 44-48

Rhonda Reeves

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIZdxwmkk\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIZdxwmkk_o)

## Message

"Pentecost Again"

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8GIQkrBuNk>

Today is Pentecost Sunday. This is a unique Christian holiday. No other group celebrates Pentecost like the Christian church. In fact, we have been studying the book of acts for the past several weeks and it could be said, the entire book is about what happens at Pentecost and how this event changes the world and gives birth to the church. Pentecost, as many say, was the birth of the Christian Church.

Now if any of you were paying attention, you would have noticed that we did not read the Pentecost story just a minute ago. And if you are following along in the worship order, we sent out you will see that the text I am going to read is not the traditional Pentecost story. You are probably shocked at this. Honestly, you probably do not care much and are thinking, “oh here we go into the weeds again with this history and theology wonk of a pastor. Well, let me tell you, this is really important stuff for us as followers of God to understand, so we are going to dive in...whether you like it or not!

So here is the deal. There are actually two Pentecost's! well not actually Pentecost, but there are two birthdays for the church where the spirit comes to the people and gives them (us) the power and presence of God. And in fact, the church is not complete until the second Pentecost happens in Caesarea.

The first Pentecost happens in Jerusalem after Jesus is taken into heaven. The disciples of Jesus, all Jews, were in town after the Passover where Jesus was killed and Easter when Jesus was resurrected. Jesus was with them until He was taken to heaven. Now the disciples remain in Jerusalem and the Pentecost festival when Jews from all over the world come for a feast. During this Jerusalem street party, the Spirit of God comes on the disciples and they speak in the languages of others. Peter then preaches to the crowd and 3000 people come to faith in Jesus. With this the church is born.... sort of. You see at this point everyone thought this new religion was merely a Jewish sect. This group was, almost, entirely Jews who followed Jesus. To join this new group of believers, if you were not a Jew, you needed to first become a Jew. This is a big commitment. Men needed to get circumcised and women needed to ask their men, husbands, or fathers, to get circumcised and follow all the Jewish laws before they could be a follower of Jesus. This was, of course, a big ask!

But God does not leave it there. You see, the church of Jesus Christ is for anyone, of any race, regardless of race, culture, economic status or even brokenness. Being a Christian is about following a God of Grace and goodness. It is about having your life redeemed or saved from the direction you are headed. Listen to the rest of the story of the second Pentecost.

After a life of trying to fit in I have come to realize that there is one place where we all are welcome, and that is the message we find in today's text.

*<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.*

This text is the story of how Christianity came to the gentiles, the non-Jews, through a man named Cornelius. This is the story of how the church threw open its doors to those who were outside and wanted to fit in. It is a story that is woven throughout the fabric of scripture, both the old and new testaments. It is a story of grace.

You see, by this time, Peter has left Jerusalem and traveled to the north to see friends in Joppa. While there he has a vision that tells Him that God does not show favoritism. Then, along comes this guy, Cornelius. Earlier in this chapter we read that Cornelius was a powerful Roman Centurion. That means he was in charge of 100 men and part of a larger army from Rome that was known throughout the region. Cornelius was, however, not just a Roman soldier, he was a devout man who feared God. He was a follower of Christ, only he was not Jewish. He was on the outside looking in. He prays for help because he wants in. He wants to be part a follower of Christ. Then, one day, he has a vision. An angel of the Lord says to him, send for Peter, he is nearby in Joppa.

Now there is more to this story. Peter, the emotional disciple, is praying nearby on a roof in Joppa. There he has a vision. In his vision he learns, as the text says, *“what God has called clean, you shall not call profane.”* That is, if it is holy to God, then it should be holy to you, Peter. Now Peter wants to be faithful to his group. He wants to keep the church pure, but God gives Peter his vision, and then there is a knock on the door, and it is some guys from the nearby town of Caesarea saying there is this important Roman warrior who wants to see him. What should Peter do? Flee, protect the church from the Romans, or he can go and preach the gospel to the man who represents the enemies of Christ?



Well, the Spirit makes it clear to Peter, “get up and go with them”, and so Peter goes. He goes to the man and his family, who, although his faith was well known in the land, represented all that the Jewish wanted to keep out of their faith. Peter goes and preaches the gospel. And this is where today’s text comes in. Peter essentially throws open the doors to the outsiders. He says welcome home, you are children of God. He says, God has made you holy, you are welcome here, you do not have to fear exclusion from this group.

It is at this time the Spirit acts. The spirit touches the lives of the outsiders, Cornelius, and all in his household. The spirit welcomes them to the body and those who were in the room were amazed that the spirit of God would be poured out on the outsiders. Peter then rightly has the entire group baptized, and the outsiders are made part of the family.

The people in the house of Cornelius were baptized. Gentile believers, outsiders were welcomed into the body of Christ. That is what happened. This is a pivotal point in the book of Acts, from here on, the book focuses on the works of the Spirit, the ministry of Paul and the Church in the lives of the outsiders. All Those who want in are accepted in the Church of Jesus Christ. All it requires to a faith in Christ and a willingness to let God lead you in His ways.

This second Pentecost teaches us and shows the world that you were once and outsider, but now, you are welcome home. You are a child of God, you are not a Jew, nor a Gentile. You are part of a new order, the people of God. You are part of the covenant people that God has called from the beginning. Folks there is a place in Christ’s church for every person who wants to follow Him. Do you want to follow Him? If you do God will make you His child!

**We Respond to the Voice of God**

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sMafs-fgYY>

Giving is an act of faith, grace and trust. Giving is an action that faithful people take, in and by, their worship. As children of God we know that we belong, and are blessed by God's grace. So, as the joyful people of God, in response to God's word and His blessings, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we give back to God what He has generously given to us. Take this time to listen to the whispers of the Spirit, count your blessings, and re-dedicate yourself to God's ministry and mission. Take some time to this week to practice living with open hearts and hands, and to return your tithes and offerings to the church to bless His world via mail or online giving, using text to give or the following link:

<https://onrealm.org/gracepclv/-/give/now>

Offertory

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” arr. T. Fettke

Dr. Lisa Elliott, soprano and Katharyn Taylor, alto with Dr. David Dorway, organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfXHDaj4UgA>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tc0VMjF5mas>

*Please pray with me: God of all creation, of all nations and peoples, bless us as we offer all that we have and all that we are to Your kingdom. We pray, Heavenly Father, that You would bless these gifts and multiply them for the good of Your kingdom and for the salvation of the world. Help us again this week to give with grace, in the leading of Holy Spirit and reach out in love, remembering that because of Your great love we have all that we need, and more than enough to share with the world. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **We Go with God to Love and Serve**

Closing Song

“Spirit of the Living God”

Q. Quartet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jynjKcb367A>

Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR472e8HIgg>



Today before the benediction I want to remind you of the theology of Pentecost. I want all of us to know that no matter who you are or what you have done, the doors of church membership are open to you. All who want to follow Jesus Christ are welcome in the Church. If you would like more information about becoming a member or what we do and believe, simply contact the church office to speak with a pastor or one of our church leaders.

Now, Go in peace, and know that you go nowhere by accident,  
It is God who is sending you.

So, go with the power of God Almighty,  
go with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ; and,  
with the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.  
Go, and for heaven's sake, make a difference!

Postlude

“A Joyful Day”

D. Wood

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV6YSUYw4IU>

### **We Go to God in Prayer**

**As you continue to worship this week, please keep the following people in prayer, and reach out to one another in word or deed.**

Dolores Harris (*Merrill Gardens* )

Judy Aitken, Alice Black, Bill Carlston, Bob Clark,  
Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart,  
Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Mary Phillips, Kathy Koch, Pam Kodey,  
Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Beth More,  
Pennie Everhart, Maggie O'Donnell, Alice & Gary Oiler, Dodi Palmer,  
Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty Swartout,  
Nick Vogelzang, Sharon Wilson, and Dick Wohletz

#### ***In Memoriam:***

Jack Crockett 3/18/2020

Randy Innis 3/18/2020

Clark Trapp 3/18/2020

Ruthy Stull 3/19/2020

Ted Phillips 4/1/2020

Violet Cross 4/4/2020

Bill Franklin 5/4/2020

Greg Holt 5/7/2020

Carol Mohr 5/25/2020