

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Order of Worship for Sunday, May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision* (Irish traditional, Arr. Byrne)

Gathering

Greetings

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, Church! Happy Pentecost Sunday! Though we cannot be together in person this Pentecost, we remain united in the Holy Spirit, bound by the Spirit as the Church. From our homes, we pray together...

People: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Leader: Renew our faith, increase our passion and compassion, restore our hope. Blow as a wind through our lives, reviving, refreshing and renewing us; ignite as a fire in our hearts, warming, challenging and inspiring us.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Leader: Especially in these challenging times, empower and equip us to share God's message in new and different ways, so that all people may learn of God's love, both through our words and our acts.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

All: Lord God, on this day of Pentecost, touch us again with the flame of the Holy Spirit, that we may blaze with your love, sharing light and warmth to a world in need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Sung Chorus (Tune - Iverson): **Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer - Together, as one.

Holy Spirit, our hearts are often heavy with the sorrow of this season of our lives, for the loss of over 100,000 of our brothers and sisters here in our country, and for their families now mourning their losses. And so, we cry out to you! Please give us ways to express our collective grief, and be The Comforter to each of us. Shine your light in the darkness of our local, national and global sadness. Speak to us words of hope and assurance. Guide our feet as we walk through an unfamiliar time and place, and put your word in our mouths that we may be led by you as we minister to those in need.

And as we have prayed to you, Holy Spirit, we now pray to you, Dear Father, with the words your Son taught us...

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 of Praise & Preparation *On Pentecost They Gathered*

Preparing

A Reading from The Old Testament Genesis 1: 1-2
A Reading from The Epistles Romans 8: 22-27
A Unison Psalm Psalm 51: 10-17

The Offertory Invitation

*Presenting of our Offerings, Gifts & Tithes (tune-Aurelia)

**Refreshed by living waters,
renewed by living bread,
may your Church in North Branford
be Spirit-filled and led!**

**Our gifts and lives now offered,
with thanks and praise to you!**

And may these gifts help others

To feel your Spirit, too! (Ruth Duck, adapted)

* Prayer of Dedication - Together, as one.

Loving God, on that first Pentecost you made it clear through the gift of languages that your message was for all people to hear. Thank you for the diversity of this world, and for the unity of your church. Equip us to be your ambassadors, resisting hate and prejudice in all its forms, and with your grace, help us proclaim your kingdom of love and justice. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit; may we walk as people of the Spirit, not trying to go it on our own, but relying on your Spirit's help and guidance. And as we have been gifted by your Spirit, may we in turn gift others, especially now, as we dedicate our offerings and our lives in service to your people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

The Gift of Music *I Will Offer Up My Life* Redman
Maria Berté, Soprano

Prayers of & for the People

Prayers of Joy and Concern; Testimonies of God's Work in our Lives
Prayers of Confession
Time of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

* Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Book of Acts Acts 2: 1-21

Sermon *Poured Out, Filled Up!*

Parting

*Hymn of Commissioning *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

*Call to Service & Benediction

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Pastor: As disciples of Christ, we have been graced with Christ's peace,
peace for our own lives, peace to share. And so with great joy, I
gift you the peace of our Lord.

People: As I gift you.

Pastor: Let us now share that peace of Christ with others in our homes, and
by phone, text, or e-mail with those from whom we are physically
apart, and let us carry that peace of Christ with us into this Season
of the Spirit, and into our world, as we together say: **AMEN!**

Postlude *Shine, Jesus Shine* Kendrick

*All who are able, please stand

Deacon – Angela Kennedy
Liturgy Assistant– Wendy Tarry
Music Director – Kelliann Festa
Accompanist– Rachel Postovoit
Soloist - Maria Berté
Pastor – The Rev. Vance Taylor
Ministers – Our Members!

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

*Christ-centered Teaching
Scripture-based Preaching
To our neighbors: Outreaching*



May 31, 2020

Hymn 1: *On Pentecost They Gathered*

1. 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.
2. The people all around them were startled and amazed
To understand their language, as God in Christ they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.
3. 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.
4. Oh Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
Rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
Oh, give us hearts to listen and tongues a-flame with praise,
So, folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.

Hymn 2: *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

1. Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her
flight, Like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flames
eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.
2. To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
To the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.
3. With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
With the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond
compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Psalm 51:10-17 New International Version (NIV)

The Holy Spirit Dwells with You!

- 10** Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11** Do not cast me from your presence
or take your holy spirit from me.
- 12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- 13** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
- 14** Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- 15** Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16** You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- 17** My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise



*Prayer to the
Holy Spirit*

Lord Jesus, as God's Spirit came down and rested upon you, may the same Spirit rest on us, bestowing his sevenfold gifts·

First, grant us the gift of understanding, by which your precepts may enlighten our minds·

Second, grant us counsel, by which we may follow in your footsteps on the path of righteousness·

Third, grant us courage, by which we may ward off the enemy's attacks·

Fourth, grant us knowledge, by which we can distinguish good from evil·

Fifth, grant us piety, by which we may acquire compassionate hearts·

Sixth, grant us fear, by which we may draw back from evil·

Seventh, grant us wisdom, that we may taste fully the life-giving sweetness of your love·

- St. Bonaventure