

# Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday (Year A)

## Ringing of the Bell

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Organ Prelude

Kristin Jones, Director of Music

#### \*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 that renews the face of the earth. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

#### \*Hymn PH 130 "Let Every Christian Pray"

1 Let every Christian pray,  
This day and every day,  
Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
Was not the church we love  
Commissioned from above?  
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

God never has withdrawn,  
Since that tremendous dawn,  
The gifts at Pentecost.

2 The Spirit brought to birth  
The church of Christ on earth  
To seek and save the lost:

3 Only the Spirit's power  
Can fit us for this hour:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
Instruct, inspire, unite,  
And help us see Your light:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

#### \*Call to Confession

God has promised that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Therefore, let us call upon the Lord, confessing our sins.

#### \*Prayer of Confession (unison)

**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 charity 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. Forgive us. 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. Amen.**

#### \*Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, God offers forgiveness of our sins and the grace of repentance. Accept God's grace, repent of your sin, and be restored to abundant life.

### **\*Passing the Peace**

*Rather than going around the room and shaking hands, for the Passing of the Peace, turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— "The peace of Christ be with you"*

### **\*Gloria Patri (PH 579)**

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.

### **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 with understanding and answer your call with confidence. Amen.

### **First Reading Acts 2:1-8, 12-28**

(vv. 1-8) 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?"

(vv. 12-28) 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.'

"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and

foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

**Special Music** "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" Wayne Jones, soloist

**Second Reading** Acts 2:29-47

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.'" Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day 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, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Children's Sermon** Pastor Eric

## **SERMON** "The Best Kept Secret..."

Acts 2:1-8, 12-47

May 31, 2020

- In one of the drawers in our kitchen, someone bought me a gadget.
- It is a pancake batter dispenser.
- Everyone needs one right?
- Rather than using a ladle and dripping all the batter over the counter, this dispenser can make perfect pancakes without the mess.
- Ask me if I had ever used it?
- I think I have used it once.
- After you move a few times, sometimes pancake making needs to be done the old fashioned way without all the gadgets.
- What is the use of having a gadget when it rarely gets used?
- In the same way, Pentecost comes around every year in the church calendar.
- We celebrate by wearing red, hear a sermon on the topic, maybe have a potluck to commemorate the occasion, but I wonder how many people know how the Holy Spirit is the game changer to the world?
- It is like having a gadget that you don't even use.
- You see, there are aspects of the Holy Spirit that could have profound implications how the local church does ministry in its community.
- It is the best kept secret for the local church!
- In Acts chapter 2, the writer Luke spells out five areas how the Holy Spirit could be the game changer for local ministry. (They all start with C"

The first "C" how the Holy Spirit is the best kept secret...

### **1. Communication** (vv. 1-8)

*1 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?"*

- For the first century Jew, **Pentecost** was the fiftieth day after passover.
- It was an agricultural festival
- It was a day when faithful Jewish farmers from all the surrounding nations brought the first sheaf of wheat from their crop.
- And as it was offered to God:
  - It was a sign of gratitude
  - It accompanied a prayer that all the rest of the crop would be safely harvested

- In our text this morning, this particular day of Pentecost something happened.
- The Holy Spirit of God came upon a “house” where all the worshippers were together in one place (assembly hall?).
- And the Holy Spirit dramatically came with three accompanying supernatural signs:
  1. *WIND: sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting (v. 2)*
  2. *FIRE: Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. (v. 3)*
  3. *LANGUAGE: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (v. 4)*
    - The noise was not wind, but sounded like it
    - The sight was not fire but resembled it
    - The speech was in languages which were not what the dominant culture spoke.
- The wind, fire, and language was not a natural phenomena but a supernatural occurrence that was a part of the grand entrance of the Holy Spirit.
- Imagine being in the room when the Holy Spirit came.
- It must have been amazing, frightening, and astonishing for everyone present!
- John Stott says, “Nothing could have demonstrated more clearly than this the multi-racial, multi-national, multi-lingual nature of the Kingdom of Christ. Ever since, the early church fathers commentators have seen the blessing of Pentecost as a deliberate and dramatic reversal of the curse of Babel.”
- Remember the curse of Babel back in Genesis was about God’s judgement to a massive building project involving the entire human race where God intervened and instituted languages so that people had to be segregated into their various language and subsequent cultural groups.
- What was significant about Pentecost was that it was a dramatic beginning to how God wanted to use people through the Holy Spirit to COMMUNICATE the works of God to not just the dominate culture but to everybody.
- The Holy Spirit at Pentecost had to fill the followers of Christ with a powerful sense of Christ's presence in and with them...to boost their confidence and reduce their anxiety as they communicated the Good News to Judea, Samaria, and the remotes parts of the earth.

The second “C” how the Holy Spirit is the best kept secret...

## **2. Courage** (vv. 12-14)

*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.” 14 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.*

- From verse 14 to the end of our text in verse 41, this is the beginning of one of the great speeches in Acts.

- What we see here in vv. 12-14, Peter courageously and boldly began his response to the accusation that the men were drunk.
  - The languages that the locals heard was not because they were inebriated for it was only 9:00 am in the morning.
  - It was too early for them to be drunk!
- Peter then boldly turns to the Old Testament prophesy found in Joel 2 and uses that text as a platform to proclaim the Good News in Jesus Christ.
- Peter was so unusually bold, Acts 4:13 says, *"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."*
- For a fishermen, who was supposed to have little or no education, had the courage to address 3000+ people about the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Friends, do not doubt that Peter was a bold, confrontative, "speak before you think" type of person.
- We can see that in his life throughout the gospels.
- But combined with the Holy Spirit given to him at Pentecost, he became unstoppably courageous.
- Friends, are you afraid to share about the joy of Christ that is within you?
- One of the overlooked or "best kept secrets" of the Holy Spirit is that God wants you to have **courage** to share your faith with others.
- Through the Holy Spirit Peter had the:
  - Courage to confront the cynics in the crowd
  - Courage to speak about Jesus to a town that cried for his death of earlier
  - Courage to speak to more than 3000 people,
  - Courage to use the Old Testament to communicate the Good News in Jesus Christ.
- Friends this same courage is given to us because of the Holy Spirit.

The next "C" how the Holy Spirit is the best kept secret...

### **3. Clarity** (vv. 15-41)

*15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.*

- Peter clarifies two things:
  1. The misconception about the people speaking different languages.
 

*16 No, 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. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*
  2. Peter clarifies OT Scriptures by quoting Joel 2:28-32 as a explanation to how the Holy Spirit was prophesied.

22 *"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— 23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24 But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.*

- In the clarity and main substance of his message, he outlines the action of the hand of God:
- He prefaces it by saying, "Listen to what I have to say—"
  1. God provided Jesus' life and ministry with signs and wonders (v. 22)
  2. God saving purpose was fulfilled in Jesus by permitting his death by allowing the city to crucify Jesus (v. 23)
  3. God resurrected Jesus and freed him from the bonds of death (v. 24)
- Peter brings clarity to His message by pointing to the wonders, works, and sovereignty of God.
- He is saying, God is behind all of this.
- The clarity that Peter brought to his speech is how God has been working through the Old Testament prophets, Jesus life, death, and resurrection.
- This is the hand of God.
- When we take the time to speak boldly about Jesus, God will give you clarity on what to say, and what you know and have been taught.

The next "C" how the Holy Spirit is the best kept secret...

#### **4. Conviction**

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

- One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to convict the sinner about the awareness of God and the reality of their sin.
- Oswald Chambers: "Conviction of sin is one of the rarest things that ever strikes a man. It is the threshold of an understanding of God. Jesus Christ said that when the Holy Spirit came He would convict of sin, and when the Holy Spirit rouses the conscience and brings him into the presence of God, it is not his relationship with men that bothers him, but his relationship with God."
- In John 16:7-8 *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment*
- This is why when Peter's hearers were "cut to the heart," they were ready and open to find God's solution for the sin in their lives.

- Peter responds by telling them to “repent” so that their sins are forgiven and to be baptized and a sign and seal of God’s grace upon their lives.

The last “C” how the Holy Spirit is the best kept secret...

## 5. Community

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

- Within these verses we see the beginning of the early church community
- Some of the components of this early community included:
  - Teaching - This is what Jesus commissioned his apostle to do in the Great Commission: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
  - Fellowship: The early Christians showed their unity in Jesus creating environments where they could love and be loved, serve and be served, teach and be taught.
  - Breaking of bread: Celebrating the Lord’s Supper
  - Prayers: This is not private prayer but corporate prayers where they probably recited early Jewish psalms and prayers.
- Because of the Holy Spirit when a local body of believers come together for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer, it forms a COMMUNITY.

Some of the best kept secrets of the Holy Spirit:

1. Communication (vv. 1-8)
2. Courage (vv. 12-14)
3. Clarity (vv. 15-41)
4. Conviction (vv. 37-41)
5. Community (vv. 42-47)

## Offering

With thanksgiving for God’s gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God’s work in the world.

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessing flow.  
 Praise Him all creatures here below.  
 Praise him above the heavenly host.  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, we have opened our hands to you, and our hands have been filled with good things. Receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for

your care for us, and help us to bless you with dedication of our lives; through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed)

*Minister:*

***Friends in Christ, what do you believe?***

*All:*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

Let us unite our hearts and minds in prayer for our world, saying, Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

For the church throughout the world, Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire the sons and daughters of your church for prophetic witness to your truth, and upon old and young give clarity of vision to acknowledge your saving power in the world.

For nations of the world and its leaders, especially President Trump, Governor Beshear, Mayor Austin, and Judge Executive Brad Schneider. Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Overcome the babble of misunderstanding among the nations, and let all people hear in their own language and recognize in their own culture your unifying message of love.

For planet Earth, our home, Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

By your Spirit, renew the earth, make us good stewards of its resources, and teach us to enjoy its abundance rightly.

For those in need of healing, Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Among those known to us, God, we pray for those who are listening to our service. Send your healing Spirit upon those who are sick in body or mind, restore them to health, and restore to them the joy of salvation.

For our neighbors and members of our civic community, Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to be good neighbors, to live in peace with one another, and in friendship share the joys and burdens of daily life. For our children, Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our children, protect them from danger, and help parents and caregivers nurture them so that they may mature in wisdom and grow in grace. For our enemies, Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Finally, we pray for peace to the racial tensions across our country. In your mercy, Almighty God, receive our prayers and, according to your wisdom; through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

**Lord's Prayer**

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** PH 315 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

1 Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,  
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,  
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine. (Refrain)

2 Jordan river, chilly and cold,  
It chills the body but not the soul.  
There is but one train upon this track;  
It runs to heaven and then right back. (Refrain)

**\*Benediction**

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace both now and evermore.

**Organ Postlude** (Please be seated during the postlude)