

# Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

June 5, 2022

*Pentecost Sunday*

## Ringing of the Bell

### Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

- EVANSVILLE OTTERS There are still plenty of seats remaining. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 11th for the Evansville Otters Game and Picnic. (See insert)
- BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG Please remember to continue to fill up your baby bottle for the Marsha's Place fundraiser and bring them to church on Father's Day.
- CHOIR PRACTICE The Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir will not be meeting again until mid-August.
- TRIVIA NIGHT sponsored by the Rotary Club will on June 25. Looking for players to represent our church. Let Pastor Eric know if you are interested.
- Christian Community Outreach The requested need for June is dish liquid.
- Bob's announcement

### Organ Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

### \*Call to Worship

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

**In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

You send forth your spirit, and they are created;

**and so you renew the face of the earth.**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

**I will praise my God while I have my being.**

### Prayer of the Day

Holy God, who comes to us in breath, visits us from the throne of heaven, and sets us aflame with amazement and joy, you open our paths to new visions and guide our feet deeper into your wisdom. Give us faith to trust your presence, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### \*Hymn PH 128 "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 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.

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 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

**\*Call to Confession**

Jesus says: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

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

**Without your power, O God, we are lost. We have done the things we would avoid, and what you desire, we have not done. By your purifying fire transform our lives; guide us into honesty and compassion so that filled with your peace our dreams and visions may be one with yours; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. By the power in whom we live and move and have our being, we are forgiven of all our sins, through the holy Trinity, one God, whose mercy is everlasting. Amen.

**\*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.

**\*Passing the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's Peace.

*Please turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— "The peace of Christ be with you"*

**Prayer for Illumination**

God of all wisdom, you are the pillar of fire that leads us into each new moment of our lives. By the power of your Spirit, settle now into our hearts and illumine your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**First 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.'

**Choir Anthem** "Spirit Boundless" Ramseth

**Second Reading** John 14:8-17, 25-27

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

## **SERMON** "Comfort for Troubled Hearts"

John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 5, 2022

- Do we have anyone in our congregation who are self-proclaimed news junkies?
- These are the people who desperately hunger to know the latest current events and what is happening around the world, and they watch more than hour of news a day.
- According to the internet the definition is "Someone who can't function unless they've read all the major news stories of the day."
- Now with the internet, we are able to get the news immediately rather than waiting for hours or the next day a radio/TV broadcast to bring us the news.
- NEWS: Negative news stories increase our personal worry.
- Often times we feel anxious when we hear about distressing events and have empathy for those effected.
- According to psychologists, negative news could aggravate our personal worries that are not even related to the content of the news story.
- With gas prices going up, shortage on baby formula, the war on Ukraine, threat of war between China and Taiwan, outbreak of a new COVID variant, and a monkeypox going around, we have everything we need to live in a period of stress and anxiety.
- In the same way, when John was writing his letter about the closing teachings of Jesus, it was during a period of high anxiety.
- Beginning in John 13, the reader will begin to see the bad news that came from Jesus.
- Look at the anxiety that was heightened:
  - Jesus washes the disciples feet.
  - Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me"
  - Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal and tells him "Whatever you are about to do, do so quickly" and Judas leaves.
  - Tells his disciples that he is leaving them: "I will be with you only a little while longer."
  - Jesus predicts Peter's denial
- The context of this passage is set in an atmosphere of ultra high uncertainty and anxiety.
- Jesus probably senses this anxiety, he says in John 14:1, "Let not your hearts be troubled..."
- What kind of comfort does Jesus offer to these stressed out disciples?

In Times of Anxiety—

### **1. Know Jesus**

*8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

- This question from Philip should cause us to stop and reflect.
- This question expresses the longing of most people to know something about God or wanting something from God that secures all of our fears and anxieties.

- What kind of question was this of Philip's
- Did he really want to see the glory of God?
- Most Jews knew that is is exactly what Moses requested, and something which not even Moses was able to fully see
  - Ex. 33:20 "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."
  - In this Exodus text, God only reveals his glory to Moses through a crack of a rock, and yet Moses could only see God pass by.
- What motivated Philip's question was when moments earlier Jesus said, "If you really knew me you would know my Father as well. From now on, YOU DO know him and have seen him."
- But his question voiced what everyone was thinking, "Where have I seen God?" "How could this be true Jesus?"
- So he blurts out, "Show us the Father and that will be enough for us"
- He says this on behalf of all the remaining disciples using "US"
- What is amazing here is when we think we know what we need, Jesus offers us so much more.
- Actually, Jesus' response was quite staggering.

*10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.*

- Jesus said that there is no difference between the Father and the Son.
- Knowing the Father is through Jesus, seeing the Father is through Jesus.
- No wonder Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me."
- What is God like?
- God is like Jesus.
- Philip never realized that he was having a glimpse of God in the Person of Jesus right before his very eyes.
- How do we see and know God?
- We know God by knowing Jesus.
- The words and works of Jesus are the words and works of the Father in him.
- People today want physical evidence for the existence of God.
- Perhaps a miracle, water into wine, or a healing, but does that really offer the lasting solution to our disbelief in God because of our anxiety about life? NO!
- Look at all the miracles Jesus performed.
- Did that bring massive results?
- NO, belief in the Lord Jesus Christ who was the physical manifestation of God is what can give us hope today.
- All we need to do is to get to **know** Him and God's incredible love for us.

In Times of Anxiety—

1. Know Jesus

**2. Pray in Jesus' Name**

*12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask **in my name**, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If **in my name** you ask me for anything, I will do it.*

- Jesus makes a profound statement here in verse 12.

- Whenever Jesus says, “Very truly, I tell you” he is asking them to listen because what follows is of ultimate importance.
- Those who believe in Jesus, they will also do the “works” that he did.
- In fact, they will do “greater works” in his absence.
- What did Jesus mean by “greater works”?
- Many people have interpreted this to mean that the disciples will do more miracles than Jesus did.
- But in the larger view of Scripture, there is no evidence that the disciples did more or even more spectacular miracles than Jesus.
- The greatest miracles that they did was healing miracles.
- No disciples ever walked on water, quieted a storm, or fed 5000 people.
- What disciple did better than that?
- So what did Jesus mean?
- Notice what the next verse says, “I will do whatever you ask in my name,”
- This begins Jesus subject about prayer.
- KEY: The greater things, to which Jesus was referring, was **all that could be accomplished** through prayer in His name.
- Since Jesus could no longer be with the disciples physically, the greater works are what they could accomplish through prayer.
- This fits better with the phrase, “the one who believes”
- Most would agree that NOT anyone who believes has the authority to do miracles, right?
- On the other hand, all believers have the privilege of accessing the authority and power of God through intercessory prayer.
- “Greater works” are the prayers of God’s people penetrating the darkness of our communities to advance God’s redemptive plan.
- One last thing, notice the phrase “in my name.”
- Often times was attach this formula for closing a prayer “in Jesus’ name”
- In ancient times, a person’s name was synonymous with their reputation.
- Children were often named or renamed in connection with a significant event or call attention to a particular character trait.
- Praying in Jesus’ name means that a believer’s request is not merely formulaic but are presented to the Father on the basis of Christ’s Person and work—all that he is and has done.
- Praying in Jesus’ name is like signing His name to our prayer.
- This revolutionized first century prayer.
- Rather than using rote or formulaic prayers of their tradition, there is no limit to the power and potential available to the believer through prayer in Jesus’ name.
- Communication with God through **prayer** is an important way of reducing the anxiety of our current events.

In Times of Anxiety—

### **3. Know the Advocate**

*15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.*

- The only thing Jesus asks of his disciples is to love Him.
- When we love Jesus, we naturally keeps his commands.

- Leon Morris says, "It is love that brought our Savior from heaven to live and die for us, and it is love that is the spontaneous response of our hearts to the love see on the cross."
- Christ set the pattern of love and obedience with his own life.
- This is why Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" .... Because I did!
- In our love for Jesus, He offers us the Holy Spirit.
- This gift is what we celebrate today, Pentecost.
- Isn't that interesting, that amidst our deepest anxiety when we think we know what we need like Philip, Jesus offers us this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The word here for the Holy Spirit is translated as Advocate but could also be translated as "one called to assist another or helper"
- In Jesus' absence to the disciples, he offers a "helper" or "a person summoned to one's aid."
- The Spirit's function is to represent God to the believer as Jesus did when he walked among his disciples.
- As believers in Christ, we are called **to know** the incredible gift of this helper who came at Pentecost.
- ILL: There is a story of a husband who was helping his wife clean the bathtub. He quickly became frustrated using a little scrubby to accomplish the task, so he attached a small round foam scrubbing pad on top his cordless power drill. Now he had a power tool to accomplish the same task but with quicker and better results.
- ISW: God has given us the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of power. When we set out to become a part of God's redemptive plan, the Holy Spirit empowers us to do way more than we could ever do on our own.
- When a person becomes a Christian, they have the Holy Spirit who abides with us, comforts us, and helps us do what God calls us to do.

In Times of Anxiety—

#### **4. Experience the Advocate**

*25 "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.*

- Notice the function of the Holy Spirit here, is to teach us the things of God and to help us remember Jesus' teachings.
- This is not an exhaustive theology of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus only mentions these two things to calm the anxious hearts of the disciples hearing about Jesus departure.
- In Jesus' physical absence, they will continue to learn and remember "everything" regarding Jesus life and his message for the proclamation of his message.
- Everything that once confused the disciples when Jesus was on earth, the Holy Spirit will teach them and help them understand.
- The best example of the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was Peter's sermon after the Holy Spirit arrived.
- When we read the sermon in Acts 2:14, I have often wondered how did Peter know how to say all those things?
- Was this a sermon he had in his pocket?

- No, this 27 verse sermon was proclaimed because he was filled with the the gift of the Holy Spirit that came at Pentecost.
- The Holy Spirit (almost instantly) taught and helped him remember the words of Jesus and makes sense of the confusing teachings.
- The result of the message, that was infused with the Holy Spirit, was 3000 people came to understand Jesus and became believers.
- This is the “greater works” that Jesus was talking about in our text this morning.
- The Holy Spirit is all about advancing the Kingdom of God.

In Times of Anxiety—

### **5. Live in God’s Shalom**

*27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*

- The bottom line of everything Jesus has been saying to comfort his disciples, Jesus desires to instill peace in the hearts of his disciples.
- This peace that Jesus gives to us is both a **legacy** that he leaves behind and a **treasure** that he gives to us.
- Jesus establishes this peace with the atoning death on the cross which results in reconciliation of humanity to God.
- Now this is during the Roman Emperor Augustus who initiated a 200 year Pax Romana.
- The Pax Romana was a period of relative peace and stability across the Roman Empire.
- It was considered a golden age of increased and sustained roman imperialism, and regional expansion.
- What is important here is that it was a peace won and maintained by the brutal force of the sword.
- In direct contrast, the peace that Jesus offers is the true solution to the imperialism of the Roman Government that is only found in Jesus Christ.
- The peace that Jesus offers is the same peace offered to us in troubled times.
- It is a peace born from a living personal relationship with Jesus, and deepened through a growing surrender of life to his gracious rule.
- The Pax Romana only lasted 200 years, the peace that Jesus offers we will enjoy forever.
- I personally think the peace that Jesus offers is the complete and everlasting solution to the Shalom offered in the Old Testament.
- This is the calm confidence in God.
- Jesus had this peace because he was sure the Father’s approval.
- With the approval of God the Father, Jesus was able to meet crisis without fear or hesitation.
- We can meet our deepest anxiety, Jesus want to help, all we need to do is to receive and experience his peace.

In Times of Anxiety—

1. Know Jesus
2. Pray in Jesus’ Name
3. Know the Advocate
4. Experience the Advocate

## 5. Live in God's Shalom

### \***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:

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.

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:

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.

### **Offering**

Out of the abundance of God's own life, we have received the abundance of God's creation, God's word, and God's love. Let us return to God a portion of all that we have been given, with joyous and glad abandon.

#### \***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**

Holy God, you have poured out so much for us— the beauty of the world, the care of family and friends, meaningful labor, and the gift of the church. We give you thanks for these and many other gifts. Most especially, we thank you for pouring your love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Through these offerings, may your love spill over in glad abundance that brings relief, renewal, and hope to those in need. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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

*Minister:*

Brothers and Sisters 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**

With joy for the gift of the Holy Spirit, together, let us pray for the well-being of the church, the world, and all in need.

We thank you for the wonder that erupted on the day of Pentecost, for the birth of the church, for the gifts of amazement and challenge, and for all the witnesses whose lives have been altered by your power alive in our world.

Make us grateful for the confounding experiences the Holy Spirit's presence creates in our lives, for the marvel of new visions, for the wisdom in prophetic words, and for the prayers of your great high priest.

Make us hungry to protect the health and nurturance of all people; let your fire burn in the leaders of the nations, in governors and mayors, on city councils and school boards; guard the lives of peacemakers, soldiers, philosophers, and artists. Pool the skills and passion of all your people for the sake of our delight and the nourishment of others.

Give comfort to all people who are refugees from war and famine, those who are lonely and frightened, ill, imprisoned, homeless, or without work, and those who face death today. We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud ... [A time of silence is kept.]

Knowing it is your Holy Spirit who has flowed through your witnesses of ages past, we give you thanks for all the saints who have gone before us. With them, and with confidence that you hear our prayers, trusting that you give more than we need, and now we pray together saying—

#### **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.

### **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

#### **Words of Institution**

#### **Communion**

#### **Prayer**

#### **\*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!

2 The Spirit brought to birth  
The church of Christ on earth  
To seek and save the lost:  
God never has withdrawn,  
Since that tremendous dawn,  
The gifts at Pentecost.

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!

**\*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 for the postlude)