

Worship Leader Guide

DATE: Sunday, June 8, 2025 Pentecost Sunday

Preacher: Pastor Amy

Liturgist: Stacy C

Accompanist: Leigh Ann C

Greeters/Ushers:

Media Technicians: Tammy M

Nursery Attendant: Shirley C

[9:55 AM]

PRELUDE - "The Ashgrove" by Todd Kendall Leigh Ann Corcoran, Director of Music

[10:00 AM]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME & WORDS OF GRACE

Amy: The Lord be with you!

I am pastor Amy, and I use she/her pronouns, and I am glad that you are starting this Sunday morning here at Grace UMC. It is a joy to welcome you today whether you are here in our sanctuary today or joining us on livestream. We know we have a wonderful, diverse group of folks that come to worship with us online.

Friends, no matter where you come from today, or where you go at the close of this service, no matter what you believe or doubt, no matter what you feel or don't feel today, no matter your immigration status, no matter whom you love, you're welcome to come just as you are to be met by our God who knows you by name and who loves you and who wants to have an ever closer relationship with you. You are welcome here.

Let's pray: Praise be to those with the spiritual gifts we don't understand. Those who are overlooked because their way-of-being is out of the ordinary. Those connected to mystery, those on a different frequency, those attuned to the unseen. Ancient & Ever-New Spirit—stir us from our limited and limiting frameworks. Open us to the wisdom of the ancestors. When we look into the eyes of a baby, may we witness the wonder of all beings & the Universe reaching, with love, back towards us. Amen.

Liturgist: Please stand as you are able and comfortable and join me in the call to worship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How manifold are your works, O Lord!

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

One: You send forth your spirit, and they are created;

Many: and so now renew the face of the earth.

One: I will sing to God as long as I live;

Many: I will praise my God while I have my being.

Liturgist: Let's lift our voices together in our opening hymn from the black song book page 2238 In the Midst of New Dimensions

***OPENING HYMN:** TFWS #2238 In the Midst of New Dimensions

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

REFRAIN

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?

REFRAIN

As we stand a world divided
by our own self seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams.

REFRAIN

We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.

REFRAIN

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again.

REFRAIN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist: Please join me in prayer:

**Spirit of the living God,
who dances like flames on us who are gathered here,
fall afresh on us to open our silent lips,
to stir us to speak boldly,
to fan the flames of unity,
so that we might see your peace come to all
who are called children of God
through Jesus Christ, the blazing fire,
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 11:1-9

Liturgist: Today's first lesson comes from Genesis.

All people on the earth had one language and the same words. ²When they traveled east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks

and bake them hard.” They used bricks for stones and asphalt for mortar. ⁴ They said, “Come, let’s build for ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and let’s make a name for ourselves so that we won’t be dispersed over all the earth.”

⁵ Then the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the humans built. ⁶ And the Lord said, “There is now one people and they all have one language. This is what they have begun to do, and now all that they plan to do will be possible for them. ⁷ Come, let’s go down and mix up their language there so they won’t understand each other’s language.” ⁸ Then the Lord dispersed them from there over all of the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ Therefore, it is named Babel, because there the Lord mixed up the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord dispersed them over all the earth.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Amy: Now, let us pass the peace of Christ with one another.

JOY & CONCERNS

Amy: As we make our way back to our seats, we will move into a time of prayer. Are there joys and concerns that you would like to lift, so that we can be in prayer and praise with each other today and in this coming week?

PRAYER HYMN W&S 3148 There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place

There’s a spirit of love in this place,

there’s a spirit of love in this place.

You can’t see it, but it’s there just as precious as the air.

There’s a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

There’s a spirit of love in this place.

There’s the presence of peace in this room,

there’s the presence of peace in this room.

In God’s tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds.

There’s the presence of peace in this room

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!

There’s a spirit of love in this place.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy:

On this Pentecost Sunday, when the Spirit was poured out on all flesh,

let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all in need—

especially for the marginalized, the vulnerable, and the voices too often silenced.

After each petition, you are invited to respond:
Spirit of justice and peace, hear our prayer.

For the Church:

Spirit of truth, ignite your Church with boldness and compassion.
Teach us to listen to voices long ignored—
to children, to the poor, to people of color, to the LGBTQ+ community,
to all who cry out for dignity and belonging.
Make us prophets of justice and bearers of hope.
Spirit of justice and peace, hear our prayer.

For children and youth:

Spirit of gentleness, protect the children of the world—
those in foster care, in war zones, in refugee camps, in unsafe homes.
Uplift children who face poverty, discrimination, or neglect.
Help us create systems that cherish every child
and ensure their right to learn, grow, and thrive.
Spirit of justice and peace, hear our prayer.

For the oppressed and unheard:

Spirit of courage, surround those who have been pushed to the margins:
immigrants and refugees, incarcerated individuals,
people experiencing homelessness,
and all who struggle under unjust systems.
May your Spirit stir up in us holy discontent
until equity rolls down like water.
Spirit of justice and peace, hear our prayer.

For the healing of the world:

Spirit of renewal, bring justice to broken economies,
healing to the planet, and peace where violence reigns.
Be especially near to communities impacted by environmental harm,
racial injustice, and generational trauma.
Spirit of justice and peace, hear our prayer.

For leaders and policymakers:

Spirit of wisdom, guide those in authority with integrity and compassion.
Inspire them to make decisions that protect the vulnerable,
defend the voiceless, and uphold the common good.
Let the cries of the least among us rise higher than the demands of power.
Spirit of justice and peace, hear our prayer.

For ourselves:

Spirit of holiness, open our hearts and lives to your transforming fire.
Make us builders of beloved community—
where every race, every gender, every child, every neighbor
is seen, honored, and loved.
Spirit of justice and peace, hear our prayer.

Come, Holy Spirit, blazing flame and rushing wind,
empower us to be your Church—
bold in love, steadfast in justice, overflowing with compassion.

Let your Pentecost fire burn in us
until all people know they are fully seen,
fully valued, and fully free.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who taught us to pray 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 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

The Spirit of the Living God resides among us—notice Her in moments of connection and care. Praise Her when Righteous Rage bends consciousnesses towards liberation. Embody Her though sharing what you have with the collective. Come, beloveds, we gather our offerings as the Living Body of the Cosmic Christ.

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Towards the new order of things—where oppressors are no more. Where healing is readily accessible. Where all have what they need. To the new order of things—we dedicate our gifts and resources, Holy Mystery. Come and dwell among us, root us in ancient wisdom, breathe our bodies awake. Amen.

SECOND LESSON Acts 2:1-21

Amy: Today's second lesson comes to us from the book of the Acts of the Apostles. When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

⁵ There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. ⁷ They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them?" ⁸ How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" ¹² They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" ¹³ Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

¹⁴ Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! ¹⁵ These people aren't

drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! ¹⁶ Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ *In the last days, God says,*

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

¹⁸ *Even upon my servants, men and women,*

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ *I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above*

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

²⁰ *The sun will be changed into darkness,*

and the moon will be changed into blood,

before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.

²¹ *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Divine Love"

***CLOSING HYMN** UMH #404 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

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke,

out his mouth came fire and smoke.

All around me looks so shine,

Ask my Lord if all was mine.

REFRAIN

Jordan river runs right colds,

chills the body, not the soul.

Ain't but one train on this track,

runs to heaven and right back.

REFRAIN

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Even amidst bewilderment—

go in mysterious peace,

attuned to wisdom from unlikely places,

open to impossible possibility,

speaking the language of compassion,

burning with Radical Love.

POSTLUDE - "Postlude in G Minor" by Paul Taylor

Leigh Ann Corcoran, Minister of Music