

# *Order of Worship*

Day of Pentecost  
May 28, 2023

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## **Call to worship** (Based on Acts 2:1-4)

All together in one place;

**they heard the rush of a violent wind;**

it filled the entire house.

**Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each of them;**

they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **Call to confession**

God's Spirit has gathered us for worship. Let us confess our sins and return to God.

## **Prayer of confession**

Spirit of God, we hesitate and doubt. You call us to act boldly but our fear keeps us from following your call. Forgive our lack of courage. Embolden us to dream big and trust the Spirit to fill us and use us. Help us be Christ's church without hesitation. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us usher in your kin-dom to come. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon**

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed. Amen.

## **Prayer for illumination**

Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, Holy God, that we might hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

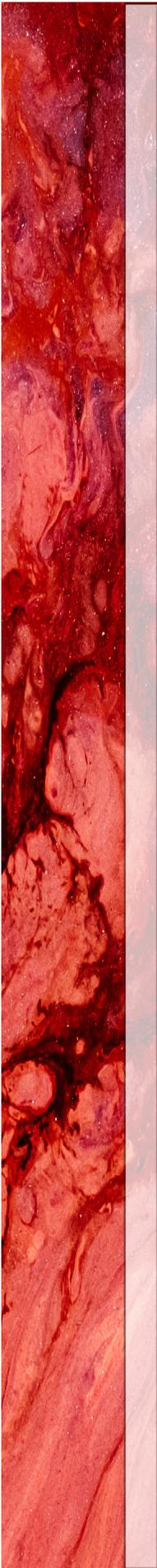
## **Scripture readings**

## **Sermon**

## **Affirmation of faith** (Nicene Creed)

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,**





maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Call for the offering**

God's Spirit is among us making all things new. Let us participate in this new creation by offering our gifts to God.

### **Prayer of dedication**

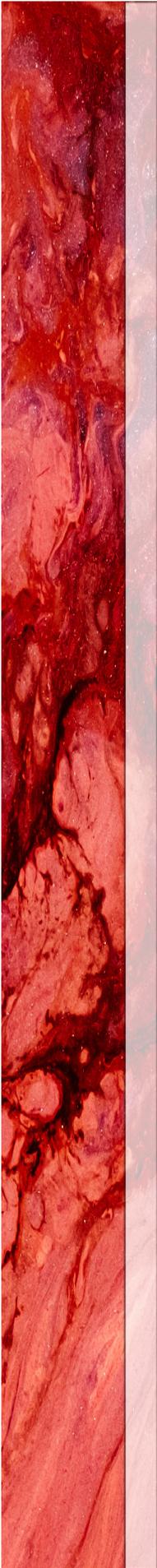
You have blessed each of us with gifts to serve and share, Most Generous God. May the offerings we present today be used to further your Kingdom and build your beloved community. Amen.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

God who gathers us on this Pentecost Sunday, grant us the courage of a planted seed, poised for growth, ready to burst from the dark, rich soil of Word and worship. May the timing of our growth coincide with your created order as we enter summertime. May we bloom in righteousness as the sun rises high and the crops grow tall.

Peaceful Spirit, in this season of war and violence, as bombs fall and AR-15s are used to gun down the innocent, and refugees flee their homes in search of safe haven, save us from evil and free us from our addiction





to violence and weapons of destruction. Bend the arc of the universe towards justice. Inspire us with courage to resist the evil of racism, to proclaim your inclusive love, to root out the enemies of righteousness, to persist for peace.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, as you gathered diverse peoples on Pentecost, embolden us with a Christian hospitality that welcomes and receives all. Open our hearts to empathy and understanding of the circumstances of others. Empower us with your radical love that can strengthen and save. May we, your people, call on you with one voice, as one body, giving thanks and praise for your promise of redemption.

In your mercy, Beloved God, hear the prayers of your people. Now, as the Body of Christ, we pray as Christ taught us, **“Our Father, ....”**

### **Charge and benediction**

May the spark of God ignite you; May the love of Christ renew you; May the Holy Spirit fill you, on this Pentecost Sunday and the days to come. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution.

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