



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR MAY 23, 2021
PENTECOST

“Breathing is the most critical function of human life. One is alive because one breathes. Yet, nobody knows how to breathe...What is remarkable is that this most crucial function of our body, on which our existence depends, happens without our conscious efforts. Therefore, the Vedas say that God is the life-giving breath. All other religions, too, say the same thing. Every breath carries God’s signature.”

Pandurang Sharstri Athavale

PRELUDE “Come Down, O Love Divine” Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

**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 flame’s eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Acts 2:1-4)

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.

O people everywhere, trusting in God’s mercy, pray:

**“Grant that our hopes be not confounded.
O Lord, be in our midst today.”**

HYMN “Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers”

**Spirit divine, attend our prayer,
And make this house Your home;
Descend with all Your gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come!**

**Come as the light! to us reveal
Our emptiness and woe;
And lead us in those paths of life
Where all the righteous go.**

**Come as the dove and spread Your wings,
The wings of peaceful love;
And let the Church on earth become
Blest as the church above.**

**Spirit divine, attend our prayers;
Make a lost world Your home;
Descend with all Your gracious powers,
O come, great Spirit, come!**

OPENING PRAYER (from the Church of Scotland)

**Come, Holy Spirit, to your world today.
As you brought order out of chaos at the beginning,
brood over the chaos we have created in today’s world,
so that people everywhere may learn the way to fullness of life,
and find purpose, meaning and hope in their existence.
Where there is oppression and abuse of others, bring your justice.**

Where there is anxiety and fear, bring your peace.
Where there is hatred and division, bring your love.
Guide us all in ways of justice and integrity, of truth and peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, to all who need your presence today.
Spirit of comfort, be near to all who are sad and lonely.
Spirit of power, give your strength to those who carry heavy burdens and are weary on life's journey.
Spirit of peace, speak calm to troubled hearts and minds.
Spirit of life and light, lift from despair those for whom daily life has lost interest, meaning, and hope.

Come, Holy Spirit, revive us and equip us for those new tasks to which your people are called today. Carry your church forward with new life, new hope, new vision. Let the gifts of all be valued and used for the common good. May we act in the myriad richness of the one body of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-14

PSALM 104:24-35

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.**

There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of it.

**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

**You hide your face, and they are terrified;
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.**

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**May your glory, O Lord, endure forever;
may you rejoice in all your works.**

You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

May these words of mine please you;
I will rejoice in the Lord.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

SERMON “Dry Bones Live”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Come Away to the Skies” arr. Alice Parker
Avery Nabholz, Kristin Ramseyer, Colin Wilson, Josh Ramseyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness”

**Holy Ghost, dispel our sadness;
Pierce the clouds of nature’s night;
Come, O Source of joy and gladness,
Breathe Your life, and spread Your light.
From the height which knows no measure,
As a gracious shower descend,
Bringing down the richest treasure
We can wish, or God can send.**

**Author of the new creation,
Come, anoint us with Your power.
Make our hearts Your habitation;
With Your grace our spirits shower.
Hear, O hear our supplication;
Blessed Spirit, God of peace!
Rest upon this congregation,
With the fullness of Your grace.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” Timothy Flynn

Photo: The “Tongues as of Fire” that traditionally greet worshippers when they arrive on Pentecost.

Call to Worship: “O people everywhere...” from the hymn “Upon Your Great Church Universal.”

“Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song” (BRIDEGROOM) - Carl Daw, Peter Cutts
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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children's Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Kristin Ramseyer

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted by early Sunday morning each week at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. We will receive this offering today.**

WE WILL RECOGNIZE THE GRADUATING SENIORS DURING OUR ONLINE WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6. Each year we recognize the high school graduates at Congregational UCC. Usually members and friends are asked to share their thoughts and good wishes with the graduates in a book that is presented to them along with a Prairie Lights gift certificate. And there is cake.

This year, of course, is different. We still want to celebrate with these seniors, however. **We invite you to send your thoughts to Tom Mittman, the chair of the Diaconate, who will then compile these and present them to the graduates.** Information about each of the seniors along with Tom's email address will be sent out to all members and friends in the coming week.

You will have to provide your own cake.

GOD'S WORK, OUR VOICES—BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS. Faith United Church of Christ has invited us to join them for this year's Offering of Letters on Sunday, May 23, 11:10 a.m. via Zoom. Steve Panther, a member of Zion Lutheran Church Iowa City, will give a presentation on Bread for the World's 2021 advocacy campaign. Then, he will guide the participants in the use of an online sample letter. The sample letter can be found at: www.bread.org/go. Suggestions for personalizing the letter will be provided. When the letter is sent, it will go to Senators Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst and to Representative Mariannette Miller Meeks. Here's the Zoom invitation:

Join Zoom Meeting—Faith UCC Offering of Letters

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86968475570?pwd=L1ZXbnplVDVUeDhsMWRkUXBXeW44QT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6847 5570

Passcode: 725566

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