

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David May 19, 2013 PENTECOST



The acts of the early church

With the death and resurrection of Jesus, the early church formed around the apostles now filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and began a ministry which continues to this day. As we follow the early church we find our own foundation and the basis of our faith.

*The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song: **Let our joy be complete!** Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song: **Love one another!** Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song: **No longer servants but friends!** Come, let our worship make a joyful noise, **Rejoicing in the friendship of God.***

Hymn: Come, Holy Spirit

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Prayer of Confession: *Too often, Lord God, we are hesitant in our proclamation; seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.*

Too often, Lord God, we are half-hearted in our service; reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.

Too often, Lord God, we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources; relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.

Too often, Lord God, we look to the clouds for our inspiration, in the vain hope of finding you there.

*Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith and open wide our hearts and minds to the immanent presence of our Risen, Living and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ. In his name we pray and say together: **Our Father ...***

Assurance of Pardon: *Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us! The glory that God has manifested in Jesus Christ is given to us even now so that we may live and love as one, for in Christ, we are one.*

Hymn: Come, O Spirit

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Scripture: **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.'"

A brief message from the WCC
Prayer:

O God of creation, whose Spirit stilled the waters of chaos, whose breath filled all creatures with life, we praise you.

O God of inspiration, whose Spirit anointed kings and priests, whose power emboldened the prophets of old, we praise you.

O God of Jesus Christ, whose Spirit descended dove-like on the man of Galilee, whose glory shone in words of wisdom and deeds of love, we praise you.

O God of Pentecost, whose Spirit came to the faithful waiting at Jerusalem, whose gifts empowered the church for service and witness, we praise you.

Hymn: Revive your work, O Lord (1-3)

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Pentecost message 2013 *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.* Acts 2:33

We have celebrated with joy the feast of Easter. We have remembered Jesus' departure from his disciples, those he loved and those who loved him at his Ascension into heaven. Now, today, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, the day of God's priceless gift to the world, the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are called in the power of that Spirit to turn again to God, to give ourselves to Jesus Christ joyfully and to serve our brothers and sisters who do not yet know the good news that Jesus loves them. Long before the birth of Jesus, the people of Israel who gave our festival its name were celebrating Pentecost. At Pentecost the Israelites gave thanks for the harvest and offered the first fruits. They remembered how God had saved them from slavery in Egypt and gave them the Ten Commandments. In the book of Deuteronomy we read: "Remember that you were a slave in Egypt" (Deut. 16:12). Many years have now passed since the days when Israel first celebrated the feast of Pentecost, recalling to mind God's saving acts for God's people. Today, Pentecost has taken on a new significance for us. We are no longer required to give to God the first fruits of the harvest. It is, rather, God who gives to us a gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit, to rekindle the flame of divine infinite love shown in the dying and rising of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the whole world.

Our president from the Pacific region has told us how the power of the same Pentecost Spirit has been at work among the Pacific Conference of Churches. In recent years many challenges, both financial and spiritual, have threatened the region. Yet, in the midst of it all, they have experienced renewal by the Spirit of Pentecost rekindling the flame of ecumenism, a passion for unity and solidarity in their communities. Church leaders, clergy, lay people, men, women and youth are engaged together in humble prayer and self-denial, inspired by the words of Micah: "God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8) This was the theme of the recent general assembly of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC). After fifty

years of its existence, the wind of Pentecost still fills the sails of the boat that is the PCC, empowering it to continue on its missionary voyage through the Pacific Ocean and beyond, giving witness to God's immeasurable love for the world. We rejoice at this witness to God's Spirit still at work in the world today. In this year of ecumenical assemblies, we pray that the same Spirit will move in the regional assemblies of Latin America, Africa and Europe as well.

From all regions of the world Christians are travelling to the next Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, South Korea, praying together, "God of Life: lead us to Justice and Peace." Let us each open ourselves to receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit that we too may be empowered to work together for justice in God's hurting but beautiful world, to care for creation and to bring peace wherever there is violence and rumours of war. May Pentecost be a time when we, as the Church, all pray for the peace our world so desperately needs. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit of Pentecost will transform the hearts of all who will gather in Busan.

*Lord, pour out on us your Holy Spirit,
as you poured your Spirit on your first disciples in Jerusalem;
Sanctify us and empower us as you empowered them.
Sweep us along by the wind of your Spirit
and make us bold in proclaiming your love and obeying your will.
Travel with us as a daily reality in our lives
and inspire the thinking and the decisions of our congregation in these days of
transition. Lead us in the power of your Spirit to justice and peace.
Glory be to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, now and
always. Amen.*

The Presidents of the World Council of Churches

One: O God of creation,
whose Spirit stilled the waters of chaos,
whose breath filled all creatures with life,
we praise you.

O God of inspiration,
whose Spirit anointed kings and priests,
whose power emboldened the prophets of old,

we praise you.

O God of Jesus Christ,
whose Spirit descended dove-like on the man of Galilee,
whose glory shone in words of wisdom and deeds of love,
we praise you.

O God of Pentecost,
whose Spirit came to the faithful waiting at Jerusalem,
whose gifts empowered the church for service and witness,
we praise you.

Invitation: *We come to the table - all of us welcome.*

We invite God to be part of us - all of us breaking bread together.

We prepare to remember Jesus - all of us touched by the Spirit of truth. : We hope to be empowered by our feast - all of us with hearts burning inside like the flame of Pentecost.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.*

(Continue in thanksgiving) *O God, giver of all that is good,*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other

Communion

Prayer after Communion: *Through the great Comforter, Advocate, our faithful Guide, we have become a part of God's holy love. And so we pray to the eternal one: God of love, as you have blessed this meal, bless now our work and our words, that we may extend your welcome to the world in what we do and by who we are. May the Spirit's power make it so. Amen.*

Hymn: Revive your work, O Lord (4-6)