



FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Pentecost  
Sunday, May 23, 2021  
10:30 A.M.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

\*LITURGY OF RE-GATHERING OUR SCATTERED CONGREGATION

*There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.* (from Ecclesiastes 3)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. (Gen 1:1) Out of the void, God created all that is. Out of humanity, God gathered a covenant people and led them from slavery to freedom. Out of corruption and violence, the Spirit spoke through the breath of prophets, forming words of peace and wholeness. Out of the chaos of time, God's Spirit entered flesh in Jesus, bringing us abundant life.

From a season of separation and anxiety, confusion and doubt, God now gathers what has been scattered.

**Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame, Holy Breath, you are among us!**

*When God restored our common life, our hope, our liberty,  
At first it seemed a passing dream, a waking fantasy;  
A shock of joy swept over us, for we had wept so long;  
The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.*

*The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)*

Our sighs have been heavy and our spirits are tired. We have seen the valley of death's shadow. We pause to remember all we have lost, those whose deaths we could not even gather to mourn. We cry out at the deep loss of life from this pandemic: 3.4 million people, 580,000 in our own country, nearly 7,000 in our state, and more than 180 neighbors in our own county. *Silence is kept.*

The Spirit has opened our eyes to the pain of poverty and the reality of systemic injustice. Unrest and untruth have shaken the foundation of our life together.

From our world of hurt and harm, God now re-creates in us renewed hearts and spirits.

**Holy Spirit, Truth and Comforter, you have been with us!**

***Great liberating God, we pray for all who are oppressed.  
May those who long for what is right with justice now be blest.  
We pray for those who mourn this day, and all who suffer wrong;  
May seeds they water now with tears spring up into a song.***

*I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'  
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.  
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.'  
For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.'  
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. (from Psalm. 122)*

We now rededicate our lives, this community, and this place to God. We celebrate our identity as God's own beloved children, claimed in the waters of baptism, made whole at the table of grace, and sent out to be members of Christ's body in the world. We unite as a community, the church of Jesus Christ, called together not for our own sake but for the sake of the world. We pray God's blessing upon this place. May we, in worship, study, fellowship, and mission, be good stewards of the gifts we have been given. May we, your church, remember that our primary calling is not to this building but to your world.

From a time of quiet, God's Spirit enlivens again our bodies and our buildings, calling us to prayer and work, growth and service.

Holy Spirit, Teacher and Advocate, you will be with us!

*We went forth weeping, sowing seeds in hard, unyielding soil;  
With laughing hearts we carry home the fruit of all our toil.  
We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.  
The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.*

\*HYMN 366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

*The congregation will sing the first and last verses. Stanza 2 and 3 will be sung by the choral scholars.*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 288)

LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, open our hearts and minds. Allow your Holy Spirit to help us understand the mysteries of these stories. Fill us and renew us by your Word. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

Acts 2:1-21

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Dennis Jewett

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

## THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

## THE 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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 280

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

EBENEZER

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

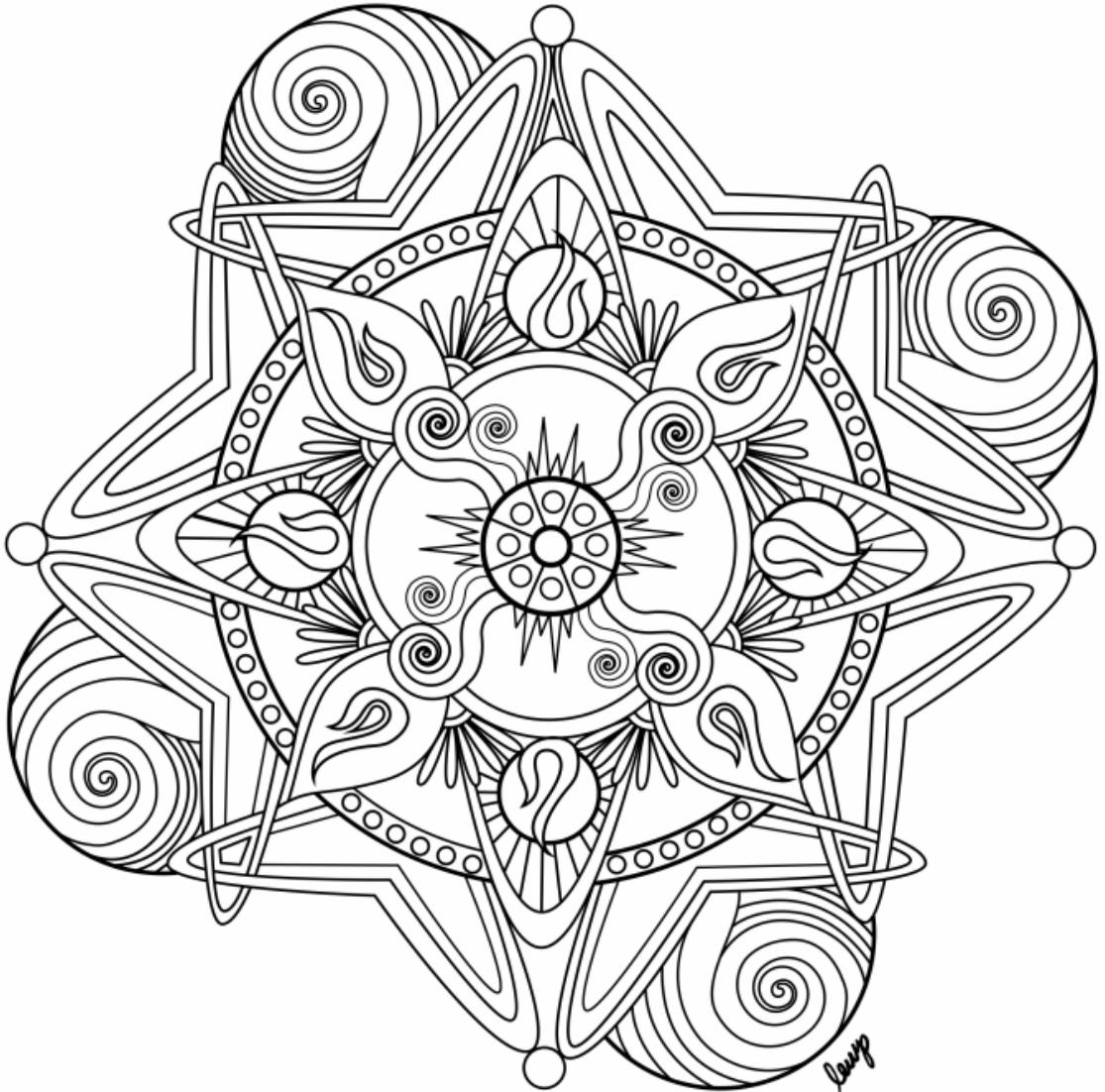
Preacher: *Dennis Jewett*

Liturgists: *Diane Bowers, Jeff Moles, Stephanie Dube*

Thank you to members of the Disaster Preparedness Team for serving as ushers and to the Outreach & Evangelism Committee for serving as greeters.



PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive  
community of faith called to proclaim  
the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people,  
and to join God in the building of a  
just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



1328 Griffith Avenue  
Owensboro, Kentucky  
270.684.1467  
fpcobky.com

Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission  
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music  
Patrick Ritsch, Organist  
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School  
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant  
Staci Estes Horn, Financial Secretary