



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

An Open and Affirming Congregation

May 23, 2021

Pentecost Sunday

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT AND THE POWER OF PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Recorded Introit: *To God be the Glory*
[Crosby]

The Barry Robinson Chorus

Opening Prayer (Responsively): *Spirit of the Living God* [Slightly adapted]

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Music from the Loft: *This is the Day* 84

Responsive Call to Worship (while the music from the loft continues . . .)

We cannot cause the Spirit to descend.

But that music rising from above and falling upon our ears tells us of heaven's hearing and answering prayer.

This is the day of the Spirit's making.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

(the music continues for at least one more verse)

*Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Living and powerful God of Pentecost, here you are right in our midst! Yet we are so weighed by ordinary thoughts and expectations that we do not feel the lift of the extraordinary. We are so frozen in cold formalities that we do not burn with warm passion at the fire of your truth and love. We have our souls shuttered against the mighty winds of your Spirit. Have mercy upon us for thinking we are doing a righteous and religious thing when we do not know the half of it and have yet to let ourselves become lost – truly lost – in wonder, love, and praise. A pity us for the control we keep and the Spirit we miss! Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Pastoral Prayer

*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, for ever. Amen.

Handbell Anthem: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* [McChesney]

Holy God, we praise your name;	All apostles join the strain
Sovereign God, we bow before you:	as your sacred name they hallow;
All on earth your scepter claim,	Prophets swell the glad refrain,
all the heavenly hosts adore you.	and the blessed martyrs follow;
Infinite your vast domain,	And from morn to set of sun,
everlasting is your reign.	through the church the song goes on.

Hark, the glad celestial hymn	Holy Father, Holy Son,
angel choirs above are raising;	Holy Spirit, Three we name you,
Cherubim and seraphim,	While in essence only one,
in unceasing chorus praising.	undivided God, we claim you;
Fill the heavens with joys aflame:	So we gather reverently
holy, holy, is your name.	to adore the mystery.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

Sermon: Three Words to Describe Jesus
He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Mk. 8:29a

Reading of a Hymn: *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

The Rite of Confirmation

*Marisa Kathleen Denu
Kaden Cleveland Nechvatal
Chase Anthony Runnheim
Blaise Calvin Westphal*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response (Recorded): *To You Will I Lift Up My Soul* [Whittemore]
The Barry Robinson Chorus

Postlude

An asterisk (*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship.

STAFF

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Scripture Reading

Kevin Booth

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Today, May 23	7PM - Adult Sunday School
Wednesday, May 26	7PM - Zoom Meeting (planning Mark's retirement)
Thursday, May 27	7PM - Parent's Promise
Sunday, May, 30	10:30-11:15AM - In-Person Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-WORSHIP PROTOCOL

Part of our re-opening protocol for in-person worship has involved sanitizing the used areas after worship. Council members have been doing this work but, understandably, they may be less available in the summer months. And so they are appealing for help. The work is not hard and does not take long. An email to Mark myurs@salemchurchverona.org will get you on the list of willing helpers. Someone will show you what needs to be done after a worship service. Thanks!

ZOOM MEETING ABOUT MARK'S RETIREMENT

Join us on Wednesday, May 26 at 7 pm. This meeting will brainstorm ideas and how to go about planning a send off for Mark's Retirement at the beginning of August. An e-mail with the Zoom meeting invitation was sent by e-mail on Wednesday. If you did not receive the e-mail and would like to attend, please reach out to Cara for an invitation (cbahr@salemchurchverona.org).

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The Rite of Confirmation

Invitation

Sentences

Questions of the Candidates

*Affirmation of Faith

Prayer of the Candidates

Prayers of the Congregation

In silence . . .

In unison:

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Confirmation

Address

Question about Participation

*Welcome

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

Prayer

Benediction