

# May 28, 2023 Pentecost Sunday

## WELCOME

### PRELUDES

*Peace Abiding  
Come, O Spirit*

*George Frederick Handel  
Robert J. Powell*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

### CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #283

*Come, O Holy Spirit, Come* *Wa Emimimo*  
**Come, O Holy Spirit, come; Come, almighty Spirit, come;  
Come, come, come.**

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We worship a creative God,

**All: Who formed all living things.**

One: We worship an abundant God,

**All: Who gives each of us different gifts.**

One: We worship a glorious God,

**All: Who is seen in the vast array of creation.**

One: Thanks be to God for bringing us together in this place for worship.

**All: May we, like those before us, worship God with our whole hearts.**

### \*OPENING SONG

*Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit*  
*(verse 1)*

*Nettleton*

***Faithful God, you sent your Spirit long ago at Pentecost.  
You gave life and said to share it, all as one, beneath your cross.  
May we see your wondrous blessing when your people everywhere  
work together, all confessing faith that binds us, faith to share.***

*(verse 2)*

***God of hope, you daily nurture those who seek to follow you.  
You're not bound by any culture; you love rich and poor ones, too.  
In an ever-changing nation, may your churches welcome in  
every child of your creation, giving hope to all again.***

*(verse 3)*

***God of love, may we in worship welcome our diversity.  
May we reach in trust and friendship to the poor and refugee.  
May we see Christ in the stranger, breaking bonds of hate and fear.  
By your Spirit, may we offer glimpses of your kingdom here.***

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### CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God pours out the Spirit upon us, but we do not always welcome God's gifts. Let us confess our doubts and fears, that we might find forgiveness and newness of life:

\*Please stand as you are able.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Infinite God, you come to us in many colors, shapes, and languages. You speak to us in ways we can understand. You reach out to us and meet us where we are. But we are quick to limit you to what we can understand and control. Forgive us, and set your Spirit loose among us. Challenge us, surprise us, and open us to your power, that we might know you more deeply, follow you more faithfully, and love more fully.**

*(Moment of Silent Prayer)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Scripture tells us this: everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. God draws us together, offering salvation, forgiveness, and new life to all.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## \*SONG OF RESPONSE #288

*Spirit of the Living God* *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.***

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## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Come, Holy Spirit. Rain upon dry lands and dusty lives. Wash away sin and division, heal our wounded spirits. Kindle within us the fire of your love to burn away apathy. With your warmth, bend our rigidity and guide our wandering feet. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## WORD

## UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of your word and the understanding of your Spirit so that we may be your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Acts 2:1-4*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*America the Beautiful* *arr. by John Ness Beck*

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Romans 8:28-39*

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**MESSAGE**

*"Undivided"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

## **WITNESS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **CALL TO OFFERING**

*We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available in the narthex for making monetary donations.*

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

*Here Am I, Send Me*  
*Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen*

*John Purifoy*

#### **\*SONG OF RESPONSE #647** *Give Thanks*

*Give Thanks*

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"***  
***Give thanks.***

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#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*SENDING SONG #410**

*God Is Calling through the Whisper*                      *W Żłobie Leży*  
(verse 1)

**God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs, through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise. Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder: God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?**

(verse 2)

**God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers, through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair. Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading: God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?**

(verse 3)

**God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts, through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts. Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing: God is calling—and we hear? God is calling—and we hear!**

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Blessing*

*Rickard*

**POSTLUDE**

*The Glory of the Spirit*

*Lani Smith*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### C • O • N • N • E • C • T

Join us in our support of the **Geauga County Dog Shelter**.

On **Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to noon**, we'll be making toys and fleece blankets for the dogs at the shelter and for their adoption bags. See the May Valley Voice or Church website for more details and to sign up.

### Calling all Graduates



If you have family members that are graduating (from high school, college, or other programs), please contact the office with names, schools, and any future plans. These will be listed in the June newsletter and recognized in the Sunday, June 4, worship service.

### Vacation Bible School



Valley invites you to join us for Vacation Bible School

**Tuesday, June 27 to Friday, June 30,  
9:30 a.m. to Noon**

See the May Valley Voice or Church website to sign up. Registration forms are available in the Narthex.

## CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



**CFPCC has an even greater need for any items you wish to donate for the food pantry as the food stamp program has been cut causing an even greater demand for food at the Center.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

## Health and Safety Protocols

- When inside the church building, face coverings are optional based on personal comfort level.
  - If you are not feeling well today, please stay home.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Any changes to these protocols will be shared in advance of Sunday gatherings.

### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**[www.valleypresbychurch.org](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)**

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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