

GIRDWOOD CHAPEL UMC

June 6, 2021

Find us on Zoom: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/913097754>

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/girdwoodchapel

Welcome to Girdwood Chapel

Reminders for folks on Zoom - You are welcome to greet one another and we encourage you to arrive a few minutes early to do so! Please keep yourself muted on Zoom once the Facebook stream starts (this preserves our audio quality for those participating on Facebook)

Reminders for everyone - preparing for online worship

- Prepare yourself and your space (focus here, allow yourself this time for worship, spiritual connection, and centering)
- Supplies you may want: a Bible, a candle, a notepad, and for communion some bread and juice or something similar.

Reminders for folks on Facebook

- We are so glad to be connecting with you as well! If you are watching live we invite you to hop on over to the Zoom call so that we can connect face-to-face for prayer time after the Facebook live ends. You can find that link at girdwoodchapel.com/worship

Please visit girdwoodchapel.com/worship - let us know you are here, let us know how we can be in prayer for you this week. There is also a link to our online giving page there.

Most of all, know you are welcome just as you are and invited to share in all parts of our worship.

Order of Sunday Worship (10:30am)

10:30 Welcome

Opening Prayer ("A Prayer for Returning," Rev. Dan Wilcox, Christ First UMC, Wasilla, AK; read for us by Rev. Jim Doepkin, Seward & Moose Pass UMCs, AK)

It's good to be back, Lord.

We plot our return,
To worship and prayers,
To people and presence,
To children and laughter.

From our cicada rest, we emerge,
Looking to what's changed.
Young ones, taller,
Old ones, wiser.
Friends reunite,
rekindling closeness.

We revel in the familiar and the comfortable,
And seek the normal, routine, and what was.

But . . .
. . . our hopes are delayed –
Nothing is the same.
What was wasn't working.
We can't go back.

We can't ignore the cry of our neighbor.
We can't forget the pain of those we've lost.
We can't pretend that our prejudices and privilege
have not been challenged.
We can't assume that the pandemic is over
while it is still taking lives.

We can't.

Love demands we emerge not to what was,
but to what is,
and perhaps more importantly
to what may be.

Drive us out, Lord,
From our seclusion and loneliness,
To a world driven by your desire.
From our families and bubbles,
To the stranger and those on the margins.
From our familiar,
To the unknown, but Spirit-directed.

Lord, it's good to be back.

Amen.

Hymn: "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

(© 1994 Julian B. Rush)

VERSE 1

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways. Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

REFRAIN

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

VERSE 2

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

VERSE 3

As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes, Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams

VERSE 4

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young, Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

VERSE 5

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

When Pentecost Day arrived, the disciples were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were faithful people from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them all, from all over the world - declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!"

They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

When the time has come, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.
Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
[...]
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

*For the Word of God in scripture
For the Word of God around us
For the Word of God within us
we say:*

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Song: "See How Great a Flame Inspires"
(Written by Ryan Flanigan (BMI), Charles Wesley (PD))
© 2015 Common Hymnal Digital (BMI), Ryan Flanigan Music (BMI) (admin by CapitolCMGPublishing.com). CCLI 7061311.)

VERSE 1

See how great a flame aspires, kindled by a spark of grace
Jesus' love the nations fires, sets the kingdoms on a blaze
To bring fire on earth he came, kindled in some hearts it is
O that all might catch the flame, all partake the glorious bliss

CHORUS

Fire, fire, fall
Overcome us all

Spirit, Spirit, rain
Flood our hearts again

VERSE 2

When he first the work begun, small and feeble was his day
Now the word doth swiftly run, now it wins its widening way
More and more it spreads and grows, ever mighty to prevail
Sin's strongholds it overthrows, shakes the trembling gates of hell

VERSE 3

Saw ye not the cloud arise, little as a human hand?
Now it spreads along the skies, hangs over all the thirsty land
Lo, the promise of a shower, drops already from above
But the Lord will shortly pour all the spirit of his love

Connection Points

- Women's Bible study on summer break. They are meeting Thursdays at 10am for a walk and pray, starting from the Church parking lot.
- Wednesdays evening prayer on hiatus for the summer
- Our Food Pantry has updated days and times:
 - First Sundays 2 - 4pm
 - Every other Wednesday from June 2nd.

Coming up!

- Sunday June 13 - In-person worship Followed by a hike to the labyrinth and potentially cleaning it up. Bring a lunch! This will be the first of our summer Sunday adventures!

Invitation to Generosity

To give go to www.girdwoodchapel.com/give.

Mail your offering to PO Box 1068

Or leave in the basket on Sunday mornings

Prayer of Thanksgiving - for the blessings of community & opportunities for generosity

Transition time off of Facebook

We continue to gather with just those who are able to join us "live" to celebrate communion and share in prayers together as a community. If you join us on Facebook, we hope you will connect with us soon on Zoom or in person!

Community Prayers

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.

[...]

THE GREAT 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

[...]

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

[...]

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts [...]

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Benediction

"On Eagles Wings"

And God will raise us up
On eagles' wings
Bear us on the breath of dawn
Make us to shine like the sun
And hold us, in the palm, of God's hand

Acts 2:1-21

The scripture today is from the book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 1 through 21. It is the story of the Day of Pentecost. Jesus' followers, the disciples, were still gathered in Jerusalem, watching and waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus had instructed them.

Let us listen for the Word of God:

When Pentecost Day arrived, the disciples were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

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