Worship Service—May 31, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday

Resources for Zion’s Reformed Church Facebook Live Worship

Welcome and Announcements

We will be live streaming worship each Sunday on our Zion’s Reformed Facebook Page and you can view the video there. Please “Like” or “Follow” the page to receive updates and notices. The video will also be posted on YouTube on our new channel--Zion’s Reformed Greenville PA. The intent is that we continue to be in community with one another and offer worship and praise and thanksgiving in all the ways we can. We will post worship materials in the “Pastor’s Corner” on our webpage [www.zionsucc.org](http://www.zionsucc.org) or send worship materials by email or postal mail each week so you all can have a sense of connection. This week you should have also received a letter about worship at Zion’s.

 Please send Pastor June any prayer requests by email, text, phone, or messenger. And share any feedback or comment on the live stream or video posted on the Zion’s page. This is meant to be meaningful for you so we appreciate knowing what works and what we could do differently.

 Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. For the call to worship you may wish to have water, a bell or wind chime, soil or sand, and a candle in your worship space to represent water, wind, earth and flame.

 As always, each of you is in our prayers. Social distancing does not mean we are distant from one another in heart and spirit. And we know that our loving and caring God is present with us always and in every moment. For all this we give thanks.

A Time of Gathering

Solemn Declaration: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Call to Worship (Adapted from John Paarlberg, pastor of First Church in Albany, New York)

Leader (pouring water): In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. (Gen. 1:1-2)

**People: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters. (Psalm 29: 3)**

Leader (with wind chimes): The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,

but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3: 8)

**People: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"*(*Psalm 29:9)**

Leader (carrying/ pouring soil): When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;

 and you renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)
**People: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in**

 **it. (Psalm 24:1)**

Leader (with candle): I baptize with you water; but one more powerful than I is coming who

will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (Luke 3:16)

**People: We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a**

**spacious place. (Psalm 66:12)**

Leader: May the Lord give strength to the people!
**People:   May the Lord bless the people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)**

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart, rejoice give thanks and sing;**

**Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King!**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.**

**With voice as full and strong, as ocean’s surging praise;**

**Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the Psalms of ancient days.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.**

**Yes, on through life’s long path, still chanting as ye go.**

**From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.**

**At last the march shall end, the wearied ones shall rest.**

**The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.**

A Time of Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of Wind and Fire, week after week we acknowledge our sins only to turn again and continue in past patterns. On this Pentecost Sunday, we are more aware than ever of our deep need for you. It's true—we do not know how to pray. We do not know how to form on our lips the words to express the prayer that lingers on our hearts. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit—comforter, teacher, inspiration, and translator of every soul's deepest needs. Guide and bless all of us today God. Free us from whatever safeguards we have placed around us to keep our lives and worship predictable. Free us to encounter you in a new way, that your Spirit might truly dance in our midst and inspire us to love and service in Christ's name. Amen.**

Assurance of God’s Love and Forgiveness

Prayers of the People

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.**

Prayer Response: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Performed at the University of Southern California Chamber Choir Reunion, June 30, 2013

William Dehning, conductor; Sara Shaklian, pianist, Karen Schrock Simring, soloist

Dwelling in the Word

Scripture Readings:

**Acts 2:1-8**
2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 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. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

**1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**
4 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
5 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Meditation

Offering our Gifts-- We are continuing to do pastoral ministry and paying staff, the utilities still need to be paid and we have obligations to support our mission and ministry partners. Please consider mailing your contribution. And thank you to all of you who have responded in so many ways to make sure that ministry happens--mailing your checks and calling one another and loving your neighbor in many ways. You are indeed a beloved community. Please continue to share your gifts and your prayers and reach out to others in any way you can to share the love of Christ with all that you can.

Closing Hymn “O Spirit of the Living God”

**O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine.**

**Descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly Thine.**

**Fill it with love and joy and power; with righteousness and peace,**

**Till Christ shall dwell in human hearts and sin and sorrow cease.**

**Blow wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free.**

**From mists of errors, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to Thee.**

**Burn winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,**

**To preach to all thy great good news God’s glorious common weal.**

**Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear.**

**The language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear.**

**Till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,**

**And earth shall form one family by whom Thy will is done.**

**So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save,**

**So shall we rise with him to life, which soars beyond the grave.**

**And earth shall win true holiness which makes thy children whole,**

**Still, perfected by Thee we reach creation’s glorious goal.**

Benediction

**Our worship is ended and our service begins.**