

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

May 23, 2021 10:30 a.m.
PENTECOST

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship all those joining us on-line and those in the sanctuary. It is good to gather as the body of Christ.

The Altar flowers are placed in memory of Melvin and Esther Berry, by Karen Galus.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Ann Fowler, Lector

Leader: 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.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Emily Rinella, Acolyte

PRELUDE Sonata on "Ebenezer" Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us Thygerson

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Acts 2:1-21 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ann Fowler, Lector

Leader: The Spirit of God has brought us here.

People: Here we find welcome to sit our tired bones down.

Leader: Can these dry bones live?

People: Yes! The Breath of God will revive us! The Word of God will awaken us!

Leader: Today, we come together to be renewed as people and as church.

People: Let us give thanks to the Life-Giving Spirit of God!

CHOIR INTROIT “God, We Love This Congregation!”

God, we love this congregation! On this day, we’re glad to see friends and neighbors, gathered, praying, as a church community. Young and old, we join in worship—some in-person, some online. We are drawn by faith and friendship to this blessed place and time.

In this year with all its trials, there are things that we have missed. Still, in Christ, you’ve walked beside us; by your Spirit, we’ve been blessed. Love’s our history, love’s our vision, love’s the work we’re called to do. Bless us as our congregation moves together, serving you.

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824 (Ode to Joy) Text: Copyright © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (written by Rev. Anna George Traynham)

O God, we have heard your Pentecost story: your Spirit is here, your church is born, and the day of the Lord is coming. You have gathered all people together in your Spirit, and you have brought life to all valleys of death. Still, O Lord, we cannot trust, for we fear our bones are beyond repair. Still, O Lord, we turn away, for we fear our hope is lost. Still, O Lord, we imagine isolation, for we fear we are cut off from your presence. Forgive us, Holy One. As you did for your first church, breathe the fire of life into us. As you did for your prophet Ezekiel, reveal to us your life-giving presence. Hear our prayers....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Dry Bones”

Children’s Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers, our friends and neighbors, as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbor as ourselves we offer our thanksgiving and petitions on behalf of the church and the world. We pray for Gabriel Sobina, Lynn Marlowe, Rachel Lang, Keith Anderson, Bruce Wolff, and Pat Stearns. Let us pray.

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. Lord, send your spirit in this place,
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from

your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Walk Worthy"
(CCLI# 2360465)

Joseph M. Martin

SERMON

A Puzzling Day

Gracious God, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be pleasing and acceptable in your sight. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Today we collect the Strengthen the Church offering which benefits the Penn West Conference as half of the money stays in the Conference. Zion's received two mission grants this past year for the fleece blanket project of Service and Missions and to assist in the needed steeple repairs. If you would like to contribute, please note "STC" on your check.

There are offering plates in the back of the sanctuary or you may drop off your gifts in the office, mail them, or give online through our website zionsucc.org. The ushers will bring forward the offering to be dedicated as we sing the doxology with Easter words.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (bulletin page 5)

THE BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE

"Rejoice and Sing"

Eugene Butler

MEDITATION: Tom Robbins

Each time we exhale, the world ends; when we inhale, there can be, if we allow it, rebirth and spiritual renewal. It all transpires inside of us. In our consciousness, in our hearts. All the time.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed between the two systems.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
 Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
 But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Between parish assignments in London, Edwin Hatch taught classics at Trinity College, Quebec, and lectured at Oxford. This hymn appeared in a leaflet, "Between Doubt and Prayer" (1878). Other hymns were published posthumously in Towards Fields of Light, London (1890).

Tune: TRENTHAM S.M.
 Robert Jackson, 1894

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TODAY

Pentecost Sunday

Strengthen the Church offering will be received.

Youth Ministry will meet after worship.

TUESDAY

Immerse Class 11:00.

Knitters Group 1:30.

Good Shepherd Center Executive Board 7:00 at the center.

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WEDNESDAY

Chancel Choir at 7:00. **Note change in day.**

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday School at 9:15.

Worship at 10:30.

Prayer Chain will meet in the Jackson Conference Room after worship.

LOOKING AHEAD

The church office will be closed on Memorial Day.

The Full Board of The Good Shepherd Center will meet Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00 at The First Presbyterian Church.

The final Immerse Class will be Tuesday, June 1 at 11:00.

The Finance and Consistory meetings will be held on Wednesday, June 2.

The last day of Sunday School is June 6.

June 6 is Celebration Sunday, a day to say THANK YOU to our volunteers!

The Semi-Annual Congregational meeting will be held on June 6 in the sanctuary immediately after worship.

The Ordination and Installation of Elders will be held on June 13.