



Divine Service

Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2021 • 10:45 am

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • LUFKIN, TEXAS

*The people's spoken responses are in **bold**; sung responses are in **bold**. For those worshipers who desire it, concurrent nursery care for children through 5 years of age is available at all of our regularly scheduled services. Should you be led to worship through giving, brass offering boxes are located in the wall on the narthex side of the center aisle doors. Kindly silence all cell phones and electronic devices.*

THE ENTRANCE RITE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The entrance tower bell and carillon bells are rung.

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Prelude on 'Morecambe'"

arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • 242

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Forest Green

The people sit.

OPENING PRAYER

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM 104

verses 24-34

R O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.

There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.

These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
**when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground. ℞

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works,
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

The people stand.

THE GLORIA PATRI • 615

Meineke

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost arrived, [the disciples of Jesus] were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN • 221

“Spirit of the Living God”

Iverson

The people sit.

SOLO

April Green, *soprano*

“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

arr. K. Lee Scott (1984)

Gracious spirit, dwell with me, I would be gracious be; help me now thy Grace to see, I would be like thee; And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal; And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak. Truthful spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be; help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee; And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear; And, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity. Holy spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee; Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good, and whatever I can be give him who gave me thee. Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be; help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee; 'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield; Let Thy word my weapon be, Lord, thine the victory. Gracious spirit dwell with me, I would be like thee! (*stanzas 1-3, Thomas Lynch, 1818-1871, alt; stanza 4, K. Lee Scott, 1984*).

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 2:1-7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Randall K. Green

“Abandoning One's First Love: A Cautionary Tale”

All stand at the conclusion of the sermon.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye, heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The people sit.

A LITANY FOR PENTECOST

O Lord, Jesus Christ, at your ascension you told your disciples to wait for the promise from the Father. **Spirit of God, we give thanks for you, the Promise from the Father.**

We remember with awe that on the day of Pentecost the Spirit was poured out on Jesus' disciples. **Spirit of God, fill our hearts with confidence and hope in Christ.**

Filled with the Spirit, the disciples boldly proclaimed the mighty works of God in Jesus Christ. **Spirit of God, help us to glorify Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds.**

The Spirit of truth came to guide Jesus' disciples into all the truth. **Spirit of God, as we study the Word, guide us in the truth.**

The Spirit came to declare the things that are yet to come. **Spirit of God, fill us with joy as we await our Savior's return in glory.**

The minister offers a concluding prayer, and the people respond,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The people stand.

THE CLOSING RITE

RECESSIONAL HYMN • 217

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

Morecambe

The people sit and will be dismissed by pews by our ushers following the closing prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

The minister pronounces the prayer, and the people respond, Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

"St. Anthony Chorale"

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)



WORSHIP LEADERS The Reverend Randall K. Green, *minister*; Mr. M. Todd Stracener, *lector*; Mr. David C. Lawson, *organist*; Mason Eppley, *acolyte*

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CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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