

Greetings members and friends of First Congregational Church of Shelburne,

This Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, is the seventh Sunday after Easter Sunday. Scripture records that on this day, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and the faithful with them and the church was born. Pentecost, often referred to as Whitsunday, is the third and final festival of the Christian year. It is not as well known nor as publicly celebrated as Christmas or Easter. It does not have a season connected to it, like Lent, or Advent, or Christmas Tide. It is a one-day Birthday celebration noted by the color red for the flames of the Holy Spirit. This week's Worship Resource and the Sunday video seek to celebrate this birthday even at a time when so many congregations struggle from week to week. In your prayers this week please add the one ancient phrase, "Come, Holy Spirit."

Please remember we include prayer requests every week.  
Any requests may be sent to me at [pastor01089@gmail.com](mailto:pastor01089@gmail.com).

God be with you as we unite in praise, in ministry and in worship even from a distance.

Pastor Rob

**Welcome to Sunday Worship**  
May 31, 2020  
Pentecost Sunday

**Good Morning** to our members and friends at home. This Sunday is Pentecost on the Christian calendar. On this day the Christian community was born in the city of Jerusalem. Though the dates are not exact, the year was 28 AD. Pentecost, or Whitsunday, is celebrated on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter. This Sunday Worship Resource and this Sunday's Worship video center on this celebration.

**Prayer Requests:** We are accepting requests for prayer (healing, comfort, thanksgiving and others). Please send your requests to the Pastor at [pastor01089@gmail.com](mailto:pastor01089@gmail.com). Requests will then be sent out through our email list to the congregation for our common prayer life during the week. PLEASE remember that all prayer requests received become public knowledge. If you are uncertain if your request for another might be confidential, do not send it.

**Chapel Moments videos:** We are posting Chapel Moments videos on our web page, [shelburnechurch.org](http://shelburnechurch.org). as often as possible. These are brief moments that include prayer, scripture, reflection, and music.

**And now let us be in worship**

**A Call to Worship**

Spirit of the Living God now descend on me!  
Spirit of the Living God now descend on me!  
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me!  
Spirit of the Living God now descend on me!

**Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

Like the wind, O Lord, your Holy Spirit comes and goes as it will. Like fire, O Lord, your Holy Spirit brings strength and passion. Like your love, O Lord, The Holy Spirit brings us your gifts and comfort. Like ever flowing streams, O Lord, your Holy Spirit fills us with refreshment and new life. Thanks be to you, O Lord, for the coming of your Holy Spirit. We lift our prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us pray saying... *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.*

## **Community Prayers**

Our prayer this morning is the sequence prescribed in the medieval masse for the Day of Pentecost, *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, Come Holy Spirit, often called the “Golden Sequence.” It is usually attributed to either Pope Innocent III or Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It has been set to music by a number of composers, including Mozart, Dufay, Willaert, Palestrina, John Dunstaple, Lassus, Victoria, and Byrd. Let us come to God...

Come thou Holy Spirit, send from highest heaven radiance of your light.

Come, father, mother, of the poor. Come, giver of gifts. Come, light of every heart.

Of comforters the best. Dear guest of every soul. Refreshment ever sweet.

In our labor, give rest. Coolness in our heart. Comfort in our grief.

O most blessed light fill the inmost hearts of your faithful ones.

Without your holy presence all is dark. Nothing free from sin.

What is soiled cleanse. What is dry refresh. What is wounded heal.

What is rigid bend. What is frozen warm.

Guide what goes astray. Give thy faithful ones who in you confide, your blessing.

Give goodness its reward. Give journey safe through death.

Give joy that has no end. Come thou Holy Spirit.

Open our hearts to prayer as we lift those we know and love to your care.....

(Time for personal prayer for others)

And now, here these our varied prayers, united in the desire to speak with you, and bring ourselves into your holy presence...

(Time for personal prayer and meditation)

May these our prayers rise to you as incense and may you answer them not according to our desire but according to your holy will. Amen.

## **Gospel Lesson: Acts 2:1-13**

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.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked,

“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Here ends the reading from the Book of Acts

Of the three annual Christian festivals, Pentecost takes a distant third place when it comes to people knowing what it is and when it is. None the less, it is the birthday of our faith, and as we celebrate that today you may wish to consider the gifts that God has given to you and the gifts of the Holy Spirit that have been given to the church.

### **Benediction:**

Go into the world with assurance, hope and promise:  
May the winds of Spirit lift you and bring you life,  
May the fire of Spirit bring you strength and wisdom  
and may the peace of the Spirit grant you Peace  
this day and all your days. Amen.

### **Notes on the text**

On the day of Pentecost, the text says the Holy Spirit came like the rush of a mighty wind. It filled the disciples and they went out into the streets proclaiming the mighty works of God in any number of different languages. Much later, the Apostle Paul, in writing about the church’s experience with the Holy Spirit from that day forward, mentioned that there are gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the building up of the church. The list is longer than we might imagine. In a general sense, people are gifted in many different ways. Some are great artists or musicians, fabulous cooks or outstanding designers. But not everyone is gifted in those ways. That’s the nature of it. We are all not gifted in everything. Nor in the same thing. And some are certainly more gifted than others. That is the reality of the general gifts God bestows.

When it comes to the gifts of the Spirit, however, the gifts are more personal and have a purpose. As Paul says, these gifts are for the building up of the community. They are not given for the building up of the individual or for filling one’s wallet or for pumping up one’s ego, status or reputation. These are gifts that require a certain openness to God’s Spirit, and a certain foundation as a Christian. For instance, I know a person who would tell you that he is not gifted, that he has no exceptional abilities. Can’t play music, can’t paint, can’t dance, don’t ask him. Yet I have seen that person walk into a hospital room to visit a dying patient, hold that individual’s hand, pray with them, speak with them about life and death and the love of God, in such a way that the fear, the

anxiety, of crossing the Jordan is gone. That is a gift of the Spirit. I am sure we can all give similar examples. It is easier to see the gifts of God in others, then in ourselves. The kicker is for those so gifted, like the one I mentioned, they don't talk about what they do in the name of God. They don't claim to know anything more about such things than you do. They just go about their ministry. The scriptures of the early church would lead us to believe that those who are disciples of Christ, those who have decided to follow, are gifted in some way by the Holy Spirit. I have every reason to believe that you are gifted in some specific way if you open yourself to the Holy Spirit and discover what your gift really is and how your gift can be used for the building up of the body of Christ the community of faith. Then again, you may already know and have already used that gift in the building up of the church. For those who are ready to explore the possibilities, the church is there to support you. For those who have been building the community, we are most grateful.