

Sunday Service: May 31, 2020 – Pentecost Unleashed

"Crash Helmets and Comforters"



The coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost energized God’s people and unleashed a chaos of flaming tongues flying through the air. Similarly, we too ought to find our modern day Pentecost just as unnerving, if not down right scary.

Power uncertain and unfathomable can be hard to control, so better strap in tight and clutch your security blanket, ‘cause you’re in for one heck of a ride!

“Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry set mixing up a batch of TNT... It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats or velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews!” — Annie Dillare

Link to YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdBU2CeJueU>

1. GATHERING



- **Prelude**

- **Call to Worship:** Based Psalms 118 (**L:** leader, **P:** people)
 - **L:** A violent wind and tongues of fire!
 - **P:** Leaping and dancing over our heads,
 - **L:** and burning into our consciousness.
 - **P:** Quick, duck - stop, drop and roll!
 - **L:** 'Cause if you hesitate, you just might get burned!
 - **P:** Strange voices in the room!
 - **L:** Speaking languages we cannot understand,
 - **P:** shrieks of freedom and cries of joy!
 - **L:** Maybe it's best you start running - head for the cellar
 - **P:** or you too just might get carried away!
 - **L:** A strong wind is blowing!
 - **P:** The answer is blowin' in the wind,
 - **L:** blowing away all that lies between us and God.
 - **P:** The Holy Spirit continues to shake things up!
 - **L:** The Spirit of God is on the loose and things are a changin'.
 - **P:** Red alert, be very careful or she just might fill your soul
 - **L:** and making you courageous, fearless, and full of joy!
 - **ALL:** Come, oh Spirit of God, and fill us with your power!



“Poverty is terror. Having your Social Security threatened is terror. Having your livelihood as an elderly person slowly disappearing with no replenishment is terror.”

— Harry Belafonte

- **Confessional Prayer:** (spoken in unison)

Lord,
Enlighten what is dark in me,
Strengthen what is weak in me,
Mend what is broken in me,
Bind what is bruised in me,
Heal what is sick in me,
And lastly,
resurrect whatever peace and love has died in me.
— Amen



- **Music**

“Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.” — Henri Nouwen

2. HEARING GOD’S WORD

- **Scripture:** Acts 2:1-18

2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2:2 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.

2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

2:6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

2:7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

2:8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

2:16 ...this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

2:17 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

2:18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

- **Message: Crash Helmets and Comforters**



"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Truth is the ultimate power. When the truth comes around, all the lies have to run and hide." — Ice Cube

3. RESPONDING TO GOD



- **Singing**
- **Reflections and Responses**

"I believe that prayer is our powerful contact with the greatest force in the universe." — Loretta Young

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." — Albert Einstein



- **Joys and Concerns**

Please pray for:

- Angela and her family as her father continues to decline with dementia.
- All our mental health workers who are working so hard during this time.
- Maria Gibson who is going through this time of isolation without husband Frank.
- Gladys Nelson, a founder of our fellowship, who recently turned 100!
- Peaceful and cooperative efforts between our nation and Iran and Venezuela.
- Those in financial distress during these days of corona.
- Geoff Krall who learned that he will be laid off from his work.
- Bjorn and Maurice as Bjorn flies to Spain.
- Gus who may be facing surgery
- Anyone who is poor, marginalized, scared, or feeling powerless
- FCMF, that we make wise decisions regarding how we will worship and minister to our community after the virus slows down.



“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” — Leo Buscaglia



- **Sending into God’s World**

- **Closing**

- **Post Service Conversation**

Now’s let’s chat with everyone via Zoom!

