

MUMC At-Home Worship:

May 31, 2020

Happy Pentecost!

I realize that Pentecost isn't exactly the most celebrated holiday of the Christian year; that distinction is certainly held by either Christmas or Easter while Pentecost tends to slip by unnoticed. But as with so many hidden things, there's something wonderful here for us to find! Pentecost is the commemoration of the Holy Spirit's descent on us and the birth of Christ's church, as we find recounted in today's reading from Acts.

In the time since, the church has taken all manner of shapes and forms – we've each lived through more than a few church changes in our lives, the current situation notwithstanding! But as in the story of the disciples suddenly preaching in unfamiliar languages, the church has always worked to proclaim the gospel in a way that's understood by all. Thanks for being a part of the church as it looks today! *-Pastor Dillon*

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

Dear God, may our worship teach us to see your artistry and inspire us to capture the same creativity in our living. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *And Are We Yet Alive*, United Methodist Hymnal #553 – [watch/listen here](#)

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

Gospel Reading: Acts 2:1-12

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. In the Genesis scripture, the people begin to build a tower so they “won't be dispersed over all the earth,” despite God's earlier repeated instruction to “be fertile, multiply, and fill the earth” (Gen 9:1). Why might the people have wanted to stay put? Where in our lives have we felt similarly?
2. Responding to their tower, God gave the people an abundance of languages. While often seen as a punishment, how might this have been a gift to the people? Have you ever found a blessing amid the difficulties of diversity, whether in language barriers or any other form of diversity?
3. The multiple languages at Pentecost was a blessing that allowed everyone present to hear the gospel in their own language. When have you experienced the gospel preached in your own “language,” whether in a literal or metaphorical sense?

Hymn: *In Christ There Is No East or West*, United Methodist Hymnal #548 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep From Singing)*, The Faith We Sing #2212 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Creator and Creative God, we offer our lives for your work. May we use the diversity you have given us to proclaim the gospel. In your holy name we pray, Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

And Are We Yet Alive

United Methodist Hymnal #553

1. And are we yet alive,
and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give
for his almighty grace!
2. Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join,
and in his sight appear.
3. What troubles have we seen,
what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!
4. Yet out of all the Lord
hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford,
and hides our life above.
5. Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.
6. Let us take up the cross
till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss
so we may Jesus gain.

"And Are We Yet Alive" words by Charles Wesley, 1749, and are in the public domain.

Genesis 11:1-9 (CEB)

All people on the earth had one language and the same words. When they traveled east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them hard." They used bricks for stones and asphalt for mortar. They said, "Come, let's build for ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and let's make a name for ourselves so that we won't be dispersed over all the earth."

Then the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the humans built. And the LORD said, "There is now one people and they all have one language. This is what they have begun to do, and now all that they plan to do will be possible for them. Come, let's go down and mix up their language there so they won't understand each other's language." Then the LORD dispersed them from there over all of the earth, and they stopped building the city. Therefore, it is named Babel, because there the LORD mixed up the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD dispersed them over all the earth.

Acts 2:1-12 (CEB)

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?"

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

In Christ There Is No East or West
United Methodist Hymnal #548

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north;
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

"In Christ There Is No East or West" stanza 1, 2, & 4 by John Oxenham, 1913, and is in the public domain.

My Life Flows On
The Faith We Sing #2212

1. My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)
3. What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. (*Refrain*)
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)

"My Life Flows On" words by Robert Lowry, 1869, and is in the public domain.