

Cheney United Methodist Church

May 31, 2020 – Pentecost Sunday with the GNW Episcopal Area

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Alissa Bertsch

Prelude

JoAnna Cockrum

Call to Worship

Patti Sooy

The Day of Pentecost is here:

the day when our babbling speech becomes the Good News for the world.

The Day of Pentecost is here:

the day when compassion is seared into our souls.

The Day of Pentecost is here:

the day when the Spirit transforms the Christian community.

It is the day when locked doors are opened;

where fear is replaced by courage and peace is proclaimed.

It is the day when those who were once afraid now speak up boldly

so that thousands hear the Good News in their own language.

It is the day we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit -

a gift we are given to share with all the world! Amen!

Opening Hymn

“Holy Spirit, Wind of Heaven” - URWB #66

Cedric Bidwell Williams

Opening Prayer

Pastor Pat Sleeth

Holy One, for all of the ways you speak to us – in rushing wind, in dancing flames, in words we understand, and in all that transcends language, we give thanks. We give you thanks for all the ways that you bless our lives: the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you and hearing your word. Send Your Spirit during this time of worship so that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions. Give us courage to share your love even in the midst of change and uncertainty. Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

New Testament Reading – Acts 2:1-21 (MSG)

Patti Sooy

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs! They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says,

"I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters;

your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit

on those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy.

I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below,

Blood and fire and billowing smoke, the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous;

And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved."

The Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Virtual Choir	"Ancient Words" – Purifoy	JoAnna Cockrum
The Word Interpreted	"Now You're Speaking My Language!"	Pastor Alissa
Hymn of Reflection	"Spirit, Working in Creation" – URWB #150	JoAnna Cockrum
Offering		Pastor Pat
Offertory		Cedric Bidwell Williams
Doxology	UMH #94	Cedric Bidwell Williams
Prayer of Dedication		Pastor Pat
Holy God, thank you for sending your Spirit, the Spirit of the risen Christ, from heaven. Fill our hearts and minds with your gifts of faith, hope, and love. May our conversations with people of every language and culture around us witness to your grace and mercy. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to your good purposes in the world through our church's mission by the power of your Spirit. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.		
Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer		Pastor Pat
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 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.		
Closing Hymn	"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" – TFWS #2120	Jon Bennett
Benediction		Pastor Alissa
Postlude		JoAnna Cockrum