

Astoria First United Methodist Church

May 23, 2021

Pentecost Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Sweet, Sweet, Spirit”

UMH#334

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Frances Gunn

On this Pentecost Sunday, the Spirit is moving! “The whole creation has been waiting, yearning, and hoping. As people of the Resurrection, God is doing a new thing. All of us are invited to come together, in our unique and glorious differences. We come together around shared ideas of love, liberation, and a world shaped by reconciliation with God. There is no one outside of the irresistible and compelling experience of acceptance through God's radical grace.

The hope we share will deliver everyone, everything, every creature great and small from evil and all its forces. With tongues of flame, the Holy Spirit descends to burn in our hearts anew. Unite us, Holy Spirit! God’s presence is blowing afresh throughout the world. Unite us, Holy Spirit! Across the barriers of language and culture, Christ’s message of love and grace is heard. Unite us, Holy Spirit! We seek your guidance as we search for the Spirit of Truth. Unite us, Holy Spirit! **AMEN**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

NT SCRIPTURE READING

“Acts 2:1-21”

Mary Frances Gunn

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not

all these who are speaking Galileans. And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and 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 Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

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. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: “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; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Cry of My Heart”

**Recording by
The Praise Band**

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 104:24-34b”

Mary Frances Gunn

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.

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. Let sinners be consumed from the earth and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(read by the liturgist)*

Mary Frances Gunn

We aren't ready, Lord. It is easier for us to hide in the upper rooms of our lives, to let the world go by and not acknowledge your presence. But you have challenged us to come alive again with your love and words of healing mercy. Forgive our hesitant witness and our complacent spirits. Heal

our fears and our wounds. Help us to be agents of healing and hope for others. Challenge and inspire us to overcome our feelings of inadequacy and remind us that you have called us beloved and have given us what we need to proclaim your Good News. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: *(read by the liturgist)* **Mary Frances Gunn**

Do not be afraid. Our Comforter and Advocate has come. Rejoice in the knowledge that all is forgiven. People of the Spirit, listen. The wind that drives the heavens—the wind that soars above and beyond us all, unifies us in God's love. Keep the Spirit's flame alight within your heart. Await the new birth in Christ that is promised to all.

EPISTLE READING *"Romans 8:22-27"* **Mary Frances Gunn**

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD **Pastor Michael**

Though forces of evil seek to quiet and quell, God sends us the Spirit who rallies us together with expectation. In solidarity with the earth and all our neighbors, let us bring our offerings to God who makes all things new.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF PREPARATION *(vs 1-5)* **Congregation**

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

UMH #500

(Projected on Screen by Power Point)

"We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays"

GOSPEL LESSON *"John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15"* **Pastor Michael**

SERMON *"I am With You Always"* **Pastor Michael**

JOYS AND CONCERNS **Mary Frances Gunn**

PASTORAL PRAYER **Pastor Michael**

LORD'S PRAYER**Pastor Michael**

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

BENEDICTION:**Pastor Michael****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.
If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.
We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**