

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR PENTECOST WORSHIP

Sunday, May 23, 2021 – 9:30am

• *The Day of Pentecost* •

The Welcome and Announcements

Pastor William Hale

The Pentecost Call to Worship

Chaplain Melissa Hale

By Rev. Dr. Curry F. Butler

Leader: In a social climate that does not favor our existence we gather together as our ancestors did on one accord waiting on your arrival. Come Holy Spirit Come!

People: **Bring With You Your Power!**

Leader: We invoke your presence to come and rest upon us so that we might understand one another beyond generation and gender. We are the Beloved Community!

People: **Bring With You Your Power!**

Leader: Power not only to be witnesses of your glory, but to stand strong together during a time when lady justice sometimes seems blind and those who vow to protect us are causing our blood to cry from the pavement. We need your peace!

People: **Bring With You Your Power!**

Leader: Power to speak life into our kings and queens, both young and old, letting them know that they are somebody. “We must be respected, protected, never rejected!”

People: **Bring With You Your Power!**

Leader: Power to be our strength during our times of weakness so that we might sing unto the Lord a new song.

People: **With uplifted voices for as long as we shall live...**

Holy Spirit, you are welcome here!

The Pentecost Hymn — AME Hymnal #200

Minister Claude Carothers

By Manie P. Ferguson

“Joys Are Flowing Like a River (Blessed Quietness)”

*1. Joys are flowing like a river, Since the Comforter has come;
He abides with us forever, Makes the trusting heart His home.*

-Refrain-

*Blessed quietness, holy quietness, What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea He speaks peace to me, How the billows cease to roll!*

*2. Bringing life and health and gladness, All around, this heavenly Guest,
Banished unbelief and sadness, Changed our weariness to rest.*

[Refrain]

*3. Like the rain that falls from heaven, Like the sunlight from the sky,
So the Holy Ghost is given, Coming to us from on high.*

[Refrain]

*4. See, a fruitful field is growing, Blessed fruit of righteousness;
And the streams of life are flowing In the lonely wilderness.*

[Refrain]

*5. What a wonderful salvation, Where we always see His face!
What a perfect habitation, What a quiet resting place!*

[Refrain]

Eternal God... We give You thanks and praise for the ability we have to still gather together in one place, in one accord, and in one faith. Even as we are dispersed due to the effects of this pandemic, we know that we are still united. Thank you, Gracious God, for Your unifying Spirit that still binds our hearts together in Christian love.

On this day, we ask that You do for us just what You did for the early church at the first Pentecost.

Send us Your Spirit! Send us Your Comforter! Send us the Spirit who comes to cheer and to guide!

Grant to us fiery tongues so that we might speak out to the systems of this world, tongues that allow us to listen and to be heard with renewed clarity.

Endow us with a mighty rushing wind that will move our hearts and our hands toward active service.

Fill us with your vision for this world, so that we might see the world not as it is, but as it can be.

We ask you, O God, to open our hearts that we might be receptive to the move of the Spirit as it comes. Give to us strength and give to us courage so that we might live as Pentecost people in a time when Your unifying Spirit is needed most. Pour out Your Spirit on all your people so that we might prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, as we trust in Your Spirit, who lives and reigns with You and with Christ, forever and ever, Amen.

The Prayer Response

“Spirit of the Living God, Fall Fresh on Me...

Melt Me, Mold Me, Fill Me, Use Me...

Spirit of the Living God, Fall Fresh on Me”

The Scripture Reading • Acts 2:1-21**Pastor William Hale**

(From: The Message, by Eugene H. Peterson)

The Day of Pentecost — Acts 2:1-21 • Psalm 104:24-34, 35b • Romans 8:22-27 • John 15:26-27;16:4b-15

¹⁻⁴ 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.

⁵⁻¹¹ 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!"

¹² 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?"

¹³ Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

¹⁴⁻²¹ 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 Litany – A Pentecost Prayer & Response

By the Rev. Jazmine Brooks

**Exhorter Tanya Clark
Chaplain Melissa Hale**

Prayer: On the day of Pentecost, ALL were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in their own languages. They told of God's deeds of power. Each speaking, hearing, and understanding in their own language. May that same spirit that fell on the day of Pentecost fall fresh now, filling us now, speaking to us in our own language, so that we might hear and understand what is our call to live out God's deeds in the world.
(Sis. Clark)

***Response:* Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us.**

Prayer: May the power of glossolalia be coupled with the courage to speak truth to power, advocate for and alongside the most vulnerable, and declare "good news be brought to the poor, the captives be delivered, the blind be made to see, and the oppressed be made free". May the spirit cause us to speak up and speak out for life's sake.
(Ch. Hale)

***Response:* All power to God's people. May the spirit of the living God fall afresh.**

Prayer: May the wind of God move us beyond the borders of geographic locations, religiosity, and class status, until the personal becomes universal and the universal is made personal. May the spirit inspire solidarity among us, so that we might find space to collectively imagine and create a world better than what we inherited and reflective of God's ordination. Lord, let it be on earth as it is in heaven.
(Sis. Clark)

***Response:* All power to God's people. May the spirit of the living God fall afresh.**

Prayer: May the power to call forth life amid death dealing politics and policies fall fresh on us. We call forth a spirit of mutual aid, the spirit of a communal gospel, and the Acts that hold us in love and charity with our neighbors. We call forth life by way of housing, access to clean air, food, and water, free and affordable healthcare, access to education, and fair wages.
(Ch. Hale)

***Response:* All power to God's people. May the spirit of the living God fall afresh.**

Prayer: May the power to call forth life amid death dealing international relations fall fresh on us. We call forth justice in Columbia, in Israel, the Congo, Sudan, and all across the African diaspora. May all of God's people hear the cries of the silenced, understand, and be set at liberty to respond. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us.
(Sis. Clark)

***Response:* All power to God's people. May the spirit of the living God fall afresh.**

Prayer: May the spirit that fell on the day of Pentecost fall on us now, so that we might speak and embody God's deeds until all of God's children are made free.
(Ch. Hale)

***Response:* All power to God's people. May the spirit of the living God fall afresh.**

The Gloria Patri

AMEC Hymnal #628

*“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; World without end! Amen, Amen.”*

The Sermonic Selection

The Sermon

Pastor William Hale

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Altar Call

The Offering

1 Chronicles 29:14; AMEC Hymnal #644

“All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own, have we given thee. Amen.”

The Closing Remarks

An Affirmation of Our Faith

Pastor William Hale

We believe in God, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and now lives that we may have hope in this life and the next.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who guides in our daily walk and unites us with power to be the people of God.

We believe BLACK LIVES MATTER and systemic racism is a real adversary, not an artificial construct that deludes the oppressed.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins; we receive it from God, we pursue it from those we wrong, and we extend it to those who wrong us.

We believe in living faithfully without imposing our values on others. Force is not the bond of righteousness. Morality is an inner virtue to be embraced and fulfilled with integrity.

We believe in the worth of all human beings, and we are committed to justice for all regardless to what they believe, the way they appear or the way they define themselves.

We believe in an infinite God whose wisdom is beyond ours; whose plan exceeds our understanding; whose mercy extends beyond the realm of our familiarity and comfort; who cares for us; loves us; and, we press toward that life which is perfect and eternal.

Amen.

The Benediction

Chaplain Melissa Hale

Pentecost Sunday
African Methodist Episcopal Church

UNITY

