



Sunday, September 3, 2023

14th Sunday After Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Helen Emmitt, Joyce & Peter DeBarger, Alice Weaver, Coralie Werking & Stan Jacobs

Ushers: John & Gail Robinson, Don & Kay Houghton, donna Kinsey, Phullis Thompson

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: The Spirit gathers us to worship God!

People: And builds us up in faith, hope, and love;

Leader: So that we may go into the world to proclaim the gospel;

People: And work for justice and peace.

All: Let us worship God together!

* Opening Hymn #129

"Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us"

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer of Confession

Will Massey

God of Pentecost, we confess that sometimes we are unresponsive to the Spirit because we are afraid. When your Spirit speaks, we pretend like we don't hear, for we are afraid of what you might call us to do. When your Spirit blows, we close the windows of our hearts, afraid that it will disrupt our ordered lives. Help us, Lord, to be open to your Spirit so that we can be transformed. Fill us with a bold desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon (Romans 8:1-2,11)

Will Massey

Leader: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life sets us free from the law of sin and death. And if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us, God who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit who lives in us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Will Massey

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

**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.**

Children ages 4 and older are invited to REMAIN with their grown-ups in service, today. Activity bags are available in the gathering area of the children's classrooms. The nursery is open for infants through age three.

Anthem "Breathe On Me Breath of God"

Scripture Readings Acts 2:1-21 Will Massey

Message "Inviting the Spirit into our Lives and into the Church" Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Invitation To The Lord's Table Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Distribution of Elements
*It is our custom at Highland to eat the bread, representing your individual relationship with God.
However, please hold the cup until all are able to partake together, representing our relationship as the body of Christ.*

Prayer After Communion Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Invitation to the Offering Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #514 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

* Charge and Benediction Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Postlude
* PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

**MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
A/V: MARK ANDERSON, GUS BEAULIEU**

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.
FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.