



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



May 23, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! Whether you are here with us in person or joining us online we welcome you to worship. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

OPENING LITANY FOR PENTECOST The Holy Spirit in Creation

Leader: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. (Gen. 1:1-2)

People: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters. (Psalm 29:3)

Leader: The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)

People: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!" (Psalm 29:9)

Leader: When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created; and you renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)

People: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

Leader: I baptize with you water; but one more powerful than I is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (Luke 3:16)

People: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. (Psalm 29: 7-8)

Leader: May the Lord give strength to the people!

People: May the Lord bless the people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)

INTROIT

'Fill-a Me Up'

Pepper Choplin

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'On Pentecost They Gathered' vs. 1, 2 and 4

No.237

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Spirit of God, we confess that we have failed to live into Your ways. We have failed to trust You in our lives. We have failed to use the gifts of the Spirit to further the reign of God in this world. Forgive us for our shortcomings. Forgive us when we have focused on our own personal gains, on our own security and well-being, and neglected the call of the Spirit for the sake of the world. Forgive us, call us into accountability, and move us into Your ways of love, justice, and mercy. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21

Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that 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?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through 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 will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams,
Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

*I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.
The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

SERMON

Pastor Ann-Marie Illsley

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator) 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Alisa Cassola, soloist

'Send Down Your Spirit Lord'

Don Besig

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Being confirmed today are:

*Josiah Cora, Hayley Hixon, Adam Morales, Isabella Morales,
Sofia Shelley-Wyss and Eva Sheppard-Lomba*

REFLECTION

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFIRMANDS

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

Do you renounce the powers of evil, and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you promise to be Christ's disciple, follow Christ's way, resist evil and oppression, and witness to Christ's work and word?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, celebrating his presence and furthering his mission in all the world?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God, and enlisting in the work of this congregation as it services this community and the world?

Candidates: **I do.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(together)*

We believe that God's compassion fills the earth.

We believe that the way of Jesus is a way of peace.

**We believe that the Holy Spirit works in the world,
calling all people to justice, mercy and truth.**

We believe that all creatures were created for joy,

and that in this life we are meant to enjoy God's glory.
We know that human beings wreak havoc in this world,
but we believe that violence, sin, and death
will not prevail, but will be overcome
by the power of God's love in Christ.
Called to befriend the stranger, heal the sick,
and attend to the cry of the poor,
we believe that on the last day we shall be judged only on love.
We believe. God, help our unbelief. Amen.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

By your Baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the Church. You have confirmed your faith and promised to participate in the worship of God, and the work of this congregation as it serves this community and the world. The congregation will now stand and declare its promises and hopes to you.

***Congregation: Adam, Bella, Eva, Hayley, Josiah, and Sofia, we welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and as witnesses of our risen Lord and Savior.**

HYMN

'Halle Halle, Halle-lujah!'

No. 41

(scroll down to music)

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

As people of God, we are called by the Spirit to continue the work of Jesus and the disciples who sought to build up beloved community. We are each equipped by the Spirit with particular skills, gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences to continue that work.

In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you have been gifted with and are open to offering this day to bring about God's beloved community on Earth?

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

'Here I Am, Lord'

No. 452

(scroll down to music)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Members of the Confirmation Class:

Josiah Cora

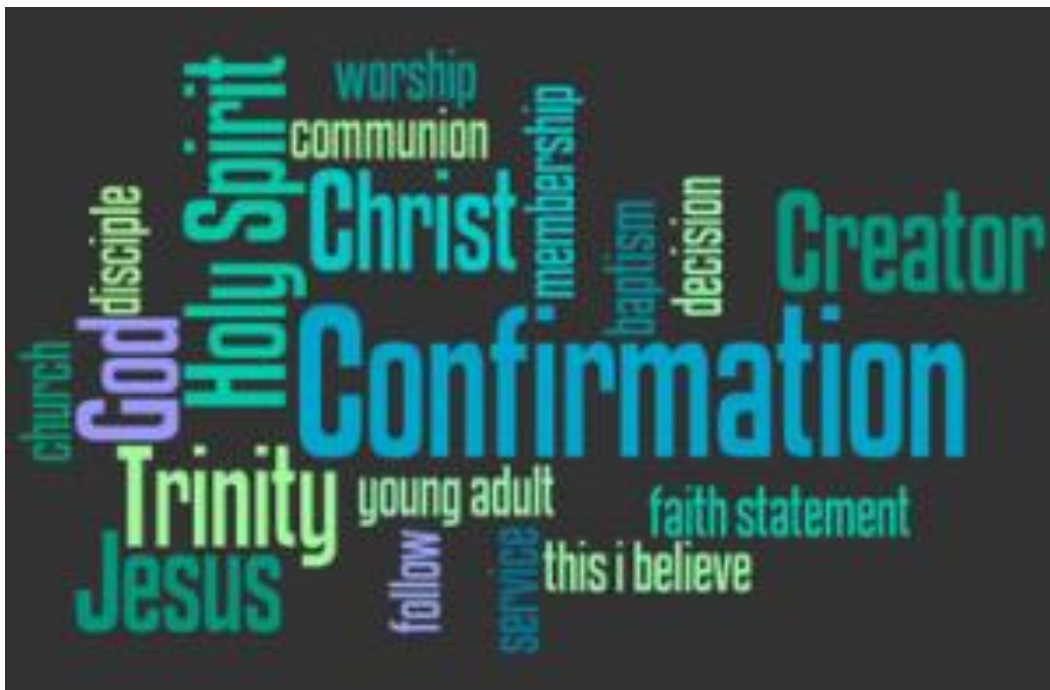
Hayley Hixon

Adam Morales

Isabella Morales

Sofia Shelley-Wyss

Eva Sheppard-Lomba



On Pentecost They Gathered

Descant

4. O Spir - it, sent from heav-en on that day long a - go,

1. On Pen-te-cost they gath-ered quite ear-ly in the day,
 2. The peo-ple all a-round them were star-tled and a-mazed
 3. God pours the Ho-ly Spir-it on all who would be-lieve,
 4. O Spir-it, sent from heav-en on that day long a - go,

re - kin-dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
 on wom-en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin-dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

Give ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

A might-y wind came blow-ing, filled all the swirl-ing air,
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes-sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir-it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch, Meiningen*, 1693; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847;
 desc. O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1994

MUNICH
 76.76D

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber; desc. © 1995 Chalice Press

so ev - ery na - tion glad songs shall raise.

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so peo - ple of all na - tions glad songs of joy shall raise.

Halle-Halle-Halleluja

41

Musical notation for the first line of the song. The staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, D, G, C, Am, D.

Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja.

Musical notation for the second line of the song. The staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, B7, Em, Am, D7, G, C, G, D.

Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

MUSIC: Caribbean

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

HERE I AM, LORD
77.74 w. refrain

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
 heart, in my heart.
 heart,in my heart.