

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

**Service for the Lord's Day
May 15, 2016
Day of Pentecost**

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Welcome to worship this morning.

- First Presbyterian Church welcomes families with young children. Staffed nursery care is available during worship. Audio from the worship service can be heard in the library (adjacent to the sanctuary) and social hall.
- If you are visiting because of medical treatment at Mayo Clinic we offer our prayers for healing.
- Our activities and programs are open to all, member and friend alike.
- We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship in the social hall following the 8:30 service and in the atrium following the 11:00 service.

** As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones. **

Gathering

Prelude

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir

Phyllis Hentz

*Our worship begins with the prelude. Let the power of the music speak to you of God's glory;
let its quietness tell you of God's peace; let its beauty lift your hearts in prayer.*

Greeting and Welcome

Please sign the Opportunity for Friendship Register and pass it to the person next to you.

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

(8:30) Lucinda Cutrer
(11:00) Diane Grill

The Spirit of God has come down upon us

The church, the body of Christ, born.

The Spirit comes to those who wait for it.

May we be filled with joyful expectation.

(wave the flame fans in the air)

The Spirit comes in tongues of fire.

May our tongues be on fire with the gospel.

The Spirit comes as a mighty wind.

May we be filled with power to live for God.

(stop waving the flame fans)

The Spirit comes with many gifts.

May we use those gifts for the glory of God.

The Spirit comes to go forth throughout creation.

May we be faithful to our Lord as his disciples

The Spirit comes to bring salvation to all.

May we be a sign of God's saving grace.

◆ Hymn 289

On Pentecost They Gathered

MUNICH

Call to Reconciliation (please be seated)

Our sister Julian of Norwich spoke these words of faith: "All people who shall be saved, while we are in this world, have in us a marvelous mixture of well-being and woe. We have in us our risen Lord Jesus; we have in us the misery of the harm of Adam's falling and dying. We are steadfastly protected by Christ, and by the touch of his grace we are raised into sure trust of salvation." In the strong assurance of pardon, let us confess our sin.

Silent Confession

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have__ mer - cy. Lord, have__ mer - cy on us.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Without your power, O God, we are lost. We have done the things we would avoid, and what you desire, we have not done. By your purifying fire transform our lives; guide us into honesty and compassion so that filled with your peace our dreams and visions may be one with yours; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Words of Life

(wave fan flames in the air)

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. By the power in whom we live and move and have our being, know that you are forgiven. Amen.

(stop waving the flame fans)

◆ **Gloria Patri**



Glo - ry be to the Fath - er, Glo - ry be to the Son,
 Glo - ry be to the Ho - ly Ghost, God, the three - in -
 one! As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
 now and ev - er shall be. world with-out end,
 world with - out end. A - - men.

◆ **Passing of the Peace**

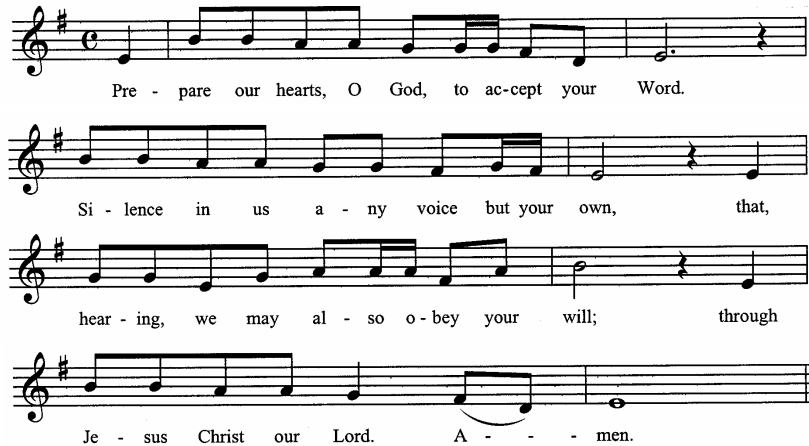
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another!

The Word

Prayer for Illumination (please be seated)



Pre - pare our hearts, O God, to ac-cept your Word.

Si - lence in us a - ny voice but your own, that,

hear - ing, we may al - so o - bey your will; through

Je - sus Christ our Lord. A - - - men.

Reading from the Epistles

Romans 8:14-17

Anthem (8:30)

Creator Spirit, Who Gave Us Life
Chancel Choir

Aaron David Miller

Creator Spirit, who gave to us eternal life, who breathed us into song, who set in us creative drive, from whom our dreams derive, on whom our souls thrive, to whom all art belongs, to whom our hearts belong:

Infuse us with your fertile grace and consecrate our art; bring springtime to our wilderness where void and talent interface and pow'r to us impart; and pow'r to us impart.

May your artists be inspired, that barrenness may flee; all hearts and minds be opened wide and minds opened glimpse inside your love and majesty, your love and majesty.

Creator Spirit, who gave to us eternal life, who breathed us into song, who set in us creative drive, from whom our dreams derive, on whom our souls thrive, to whom all art belongs, to whom our hearts belong: Amen

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(11:00)

Spirit Divine (see hymn 407 for text)
Barbara Depman, alto

Wilbur Held

Time for All Our Young Worshippers

Hymn

sung to All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

Come, Lord Jesus, to this holy place, and bless the children here.
Guide them, mold them in your gentle ways, to know your love so dear.

Text by Judy Smithson.

Pass Prayer Cards to the aisle. An usher will collect them.

Children through third grade may go to room E206 for Kids' Zone or are welcome to stay with their parents in worship. Children above third grade should stay in worship.

The Story of Pentecost in Word and Song

Acts 2:1-21

Part 1

Hymn 288

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

Part 2

Hymn 279 (st. 1 and 4) Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

ST. AGNES

Part 3

Hymn 291

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

SPIRIT

Message

The Fiftieth Day

Rev. T. J. Parlette

Litany for Pentecost

Under the Law of Moses, it was a harvest festival, a feast of the first fruits of the people's labor.

By the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ, it became a festival of the Spirit, a feast of power.

The crucified and risen Lord had left his disciples again – with a story no one would believe without a show of power.

But he left them with a promise of power, the power of the Holy Spirit, the power that would give wings to their story and make them his witnesses “in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The power of God's Spirit took them by surprise,

But they were in the right place and they were together.

(wave flame fans)

God's Spirit hovered above them like tongues of flame;

Their fear vanished, their speech caught fire.

They spoke in their native Aramaic,

But their astonished audience heard them, each in their own language.

(stop waving flame fans)

A harvest festival became, by the power of God's Spirit, a great harvest of souls.

Thanksgiving for the first fruits of the people's labor turned into the birthday feast of the church.

Gracious God, we are children of your promise, embodied and fulfilled in our Savior, Jesus Christ. On this joyful Pentecost, bring forth in each of us some spiritual fruit,

That this church may be empowered to share in your worldwide harvest of peace with justice. Amen.

Our Response

◆ Hymn 285

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

BRIDEGROOM

◆ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, known as Creator, Son and ever-present Spirit. We believe God gave birth to the church with the gift of the Holy Spirit – stirring the disciples and us to tell the Good News, heal the sick, feed the hungry, take care of the poor, welcome the stranger and be a community of forgiveness and joy.

We believe the Spirit is still moving, still acting, still turning the world upside down with love. We believe the Spirit gives us different gifts to use, all building up the church and showing the world a community of compassion and wisdom.

We believe the Holy Spirit will not be contained in dull, lifeless forms, but surprises us and empowers us to do new things, to risk loving, to venture boldly into God's new world.

(wave the flame fans)

We believe in the church, wind-powered, fire-tinged and Spirit-filled. Amen.

(stop waving flame fans)

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Offertory

At the Offertory (8:30) I Will Not Leave You Comfortless
Chancel Choir

Everett Titcomb

I will not leave you comfortless.

I will come to you yet again and your heart shall be joyful. Alleluia!

(11:00) Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

James Biery

- ◆ **Offertory Response 643** (stanza 1) Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
 who wondrous things hath done, in Whom His world rejoices.
 Who from our mother's arms hath bless'd us on our way
 with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
Text in public domain.

- ◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**
O Lord, make us thankful every day for the gifts that alight upon us from your bounty. Guide us to use these offerings to your glory for the health of your people and this creation. Amen.

Sending

- ◆ **Hymn 290** O Day of Joy and Wonder JONATHAN'S TUNE
- ◆ **Benediction**
- ◆ **Response 547** (stanza 3) Go, My Children, Fed and Nourished AR HYD Y NOS
 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
 Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
 Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
 Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."
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Postlude Final Variation on "Veni Creator Spiritus" Maurice Duruflé

Those who wish may be seated for the postlude. Our music is offered to the glory of God; if you want to express your appreciation, a spoken "Amen" or "Praise God" is appropriate.

Some of the service music was written by Lee J Afdahl.

A word about the visual display

In honor of Pentecost, we have a special visual display this morning. Red is the traditional color of Pentecost as it symbolizes the Holy Spirit. The clear glass vases in different shapes, sizes, and designs symbolize the uniqueness of all God's children. The floating candles represent the power of the Holy Spirit in each of us as we are united by the water of our baptism.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)
June 13-17 / 9 a.m.-noon
 "Abundance Orchard"
where faith grows
& the hungry are fed

Sign up today!
Registration forms are in the church office.

Volunteers, we need your help! Decorators, skit actors, traffic directors, leaders for snacks, crafts, lessons, games and stories, and more are all needed. Have some fun with this great ministry to our community. Sign up/ask questions to Rick Morris (morris.rick@fpcrochester.org).

Calendar for the week of May 15 – May 22 (and beyond)

TODAY – May 15 (Day of Pentecost)

We thank all who are sharing their ministries in worship today.

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by Tony and Judy Smithson in memory of their parents.

A **nursery** for infants through 2-year-olds is staffed throughout the morning. We also offer a quiet space for nursing mothers. An usher will be happy to direct you if you don't know where the nursery is located.

Education hour:

- 9:40-10:45: Nursery - preschool (2-years-old)
- 9:40-10:20: Calvin Choir for grades 2-5
- 9:40-10:20: Sunday school for age 3-grade 1
- 9:40-10:45: Sunday school/education hour for grade 6 – adult education
- 10:20-10:50: Cherub Choir for age 4-grade 1
- 10:20-11:00: Sunday school for grade 2-5

Adults:

- 9:40 a.m.: *Current Issues* in Sheldon Jackson lounge ... *Ripped from the Headlines*
- 9:40 a.m.: *Grace-based Parenting Class* in room A-101 will continue with *Building Character*.
- 9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Bible Study* in south fireside room ... *Matthew*

The **Pentecost Offering** will be dedicated during worship. One of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Pentecost Offering helps bring God's transforming, redeeming love to children at risk, guide and nurture young people's growing faith, and provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders.

Organ scholars of the student scholarship program as funded by the J. Isabelle Dyck Fund of the Rochester Area Foundation and facilitated by the Southeast Minnesota Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present their spring recital at 2 p.m. in our sanctuary.

MONDAY – May 16

Items for the **June newsletter** are due either in the office or e-mailed to fpc_carol@hotmail.com.

Esther Circle will meet at noon for a potluck luncheon at the home of Barbara Boyer. Please meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring a salad, hot dish, or dessert to pass.

Volunteers needed! The official start for remodeling our church kitchen was May 11. The implementation committee has a budget to complete this job, but we are looking for ways to defray some of the costs. Right now we need volunteers to help take down the kitchen. All the appliances and the cabinets have to be removed. There are jobs for many abilities. Times to work this week are Monday, May 16 from 6-9 p.m. We will plan other daytime and evening schedules as needed. Please call Bev Lewis (288-8959) if you would be willing to help and save the church some money.

TUESDAY – May 17

Session will meet at 7 p.m. in the south fireside room.

WEDNESDAY – May 18

Priscilla Circle will meet at 11 a.m. for a potluck brunch at the home of Terry Narr (1911 Oak Knoll Lane NW).

This is the last week for most Wednesday activities until September although the Bible study will meet June 1 and then biweekly for the rest of the summer.

Wednesday Activities	
4:15	Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5)
5:00	Youth Choir (grades 6-12)
5:45	Supper (suggested donation \$4/person or \$10 max/family)
6:15	Middle School youth group (grades 6-8)
6:15	Senior High youth group (grades 9-12)
6:30	Adult Bible Study "How to abide in Jesus"
7:15	Joyous Praise handbells (grades 6-12)

THURSDAY – May 19

Jubilate Deo Bells will have a potluck picnic at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lee Afdahl.

Chancel Choir will not rehearse May 19.

The **FPC softball team** plays Calvary Baptist at 7:15 p.m. at McQuillan Field #1 (1 mile south of Cub Foods on Marion Road, turn right at stop light).

SATURDAY – May 21

The **FPC Habitat for Humanity** work group is scheduled to work on the house on Cedar Park Court (the house we started last summer) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or whenever you need to leave). No construction experience is necessary. We will probably be doing inside work and there are jobs for every skill level. Let Sarah Edgerton (edgertonsarah@gmail.com) know if you're interested in volunteering. If May 21 doesn't work for you, keep June 18 in mind.

Ruth Circle will meet at 10 a.m. in the lounge.

SUNDAY – May 22 (Celebration Sunday)

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Please come down to the newly completed multi-purpose area from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for a **celebration hosted by the Christian Education Committee**.

- Come celebrate another great program year.
- Come enjoy refreshments.
- Come enjoy fellowship with other students, teachers and parents.
- Come celebrate our Christian Education, youth and music programs and participants.

SUNDAY – May 29 (Memorial Day weekend)

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

From **May 29 through Labor Day Sunday** we will have one service of worship at 9:30 a.m.

For Your Information

Is there a graduate in your house? If you or your child will be graduating or graduated midyear (either high school or college), please let the church office know. We will honor our graduates during worship on June 5.

May is First Presbyterian's month to provide paper products and other needed items for **Ronald McDonald House**. A list of requested items is on the collection tub in the foyer.

Among the Church Family

Happy Anniversary to Robert and Ann Groover who will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary May 23.

Happy Anniversary to Thomas and Kiyomi Takekawa who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary May 23.

Capital Campaign launched to raise money for building improvements

Amazing things are happening at FPC!

- If you've been in the social hall recently you've seen the new flooring, new paint job, and new chairs. You don't see the work that went into asbestos abatement when we removed the old tile, but we did that too.
- If you've been in the Great Room, now referred to as the Multipurpose Room, you've been amazed at the transformation from an unfinished basement to a room with many possibilities, including a finished floor, painted walls, enhanced audio-video capabilities, a lounge area, and a play space and equipment for children.
- If you've been in the two former Sunday school rooms under the sanctuary, you've seen the change from two small, dingy classrooms/storerooms into one large room with new flooring, rug, and paint job that turned the area into a great place for our children's choirs and First Players to rehearse.

We were able to accomplish all this with the help of enormous hours of volunteer help, a grant and a loan from the church's Capital Reserve fund, and some early donations from our members.

- If you've been in the main kitchen, you know that's yet to be done. In May volunteers and construction workers will essentially strip the kitchen and prepare it for installation of new cabinets, new appliances, and upgrades that will bring it up to code. We expect the work to be completed by the end of July.

Now the time has come to make paying for all the projects a priority. You have already received information from the Capital Campaign committee that explains in more detail the money we need to raise. The cost of the projects, including a component for outreach (mission and social concerns) and contingencies, is \$320,000 and it is that amount that we need you to help us raise. We are asking you to consider making a pledge to be paid over a three-year period, although we would gladly accept a pledge paid in full early in the period.

Included in the mailing was a pledge card, a return envelope, and a form to fill out and return to the church if you'd like to have your pledge automatically deducted from your checking or saving account. If you would like to make your pledge today and don't have your card, there are extra ones in the pew racks.

Thank you for your part in helping us grow as a faith fellowship with up-to-date facilities to better serve our congregation and our community.

- *And if you haven't been in these places yet, you really need to check them out. You'll be amazed!*

Thanks to everyone who has already returned a pledge card!

If you haven't turned yours in yet, we encourage you to do it soon.

Extra cards are in the pew racks.

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist

Rick L. Morris, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education

Kathleen M. Kruger, Music Assistant
Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Vera B. Herr, Interim Custodian

Child Care staff: Valerie Asleson, Kelly Bock, Margie Schaaf

Security and custodial personnel: Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Sue Kruger, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer

Office hours: Monday-Thursday (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.); Friday (7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.); Saturday (9:30 a.m.-noon)

First Presbyterian Church; 512 SW Third Street / Rochester, MN 55902
507/282-1618; rochesterfpc@msn.com; www.fpcrochester.org

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester
is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance meets with ecumenical partners in Lebanon

Ongoing civil war in Syria and impact on refugees top agenda

May 4, 2016

Since the Syrian Civil War began in March 2011, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been responding to the needs of affected communities in Syria and Lebanon. Working in conjunction with ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), members and ecumenical partners have been providing relief to refugees in neighboring countries and to internally displaced Syrians.

For much of the ongoing disaster response PDA is working in direct partnership with our Presbyterian partners in the region, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), which has embraced into its mission efforts relief, rebuilding and pastoral care for those affected by the war. PDA Coordinator, the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus recently returned to Lebanon and Syria for a consultation with NESSL partners.

“We spent several days at a retreat center outside of Beirut discussing the impact of the war in the region, the humanitarian needs and the church’s understanding of what its function is as a community of faith,” said Kraus. “The group shared the impact of pastoral work during war time, especially the Syrian pastors. They were asking us how our work has changed by being engaged with them. It was a rich three days of conversation, as we heard powerful and painful stories of life in besieged cities, and with congregations that have been scattered and shattered by violence and the threats surrounding them. In addition to sharing their own experiences as an affected community, we were moved by the invitation to share our own perspectives as partners of how our work and faith practice have changed by being engaged with them.”

On the fourth day of the Lebanon visit attendees split into groups and visited refugee schools. There are currently four NESSL operated schools in Lebanon with plans for a fifth one in the southern portion of the country. One school had just opened in the town of Minyara and already had 72 children attending.

“The school was actually an old warehouse and they would bring the children in by bus from the camps,” said Kraus. “This school focuses on children that are completely illiterate having been deprived of schooling in Syria by having to flee as refugees. Almost all of the children are at entry level education, ages four to 13. So they’re reaching kids whose lives were disrupted when they had to move to Lebanon five years ago.”

Kraus says the United Nations runs some schools in the larger camps, but she credits NESSL with running some of the best schools in the country adding they are very sound educationally.

“These schools will likely cost \$6,000 to 8,000 dollars a month. This is a huge financial undertaking with four schools in operation and plans for a fifth,” said Kraus. “Even if the war ended tomorrow, they will stay committed to this educational project for years while they work to get these folks into stable and settled lives, whether in Lebanon or back home.”

While the crisis in Syria has no end in sight, Kraus says church and ecumenical partners are planning to be there for the long haul.

“After the crisis is over and people are back in their homes, it’s natural for the humanitarian effort to taper off after an emergency phase,” said Kraus. “But there are long term commitments to these educational projects, to rebuild shattered communities, and to restore the livelihoods of families and individuals disrupted and destroyed by war. This speaks in volumes about the commitment, courage and great-heartedness of these partners that are willing to embrace such challenging projects and they’re doing it with such transparency and hope.