



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

MAY 24, 2025
DAY OF PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire Plainsong, Mode VIII;
arr. Healey Willan

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

O Holy Spirit

Christopher Tye

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace eternal source of love
Inflame, we pray, our inmost hearts with fire from heav'n above.

As thou dost join with holiest bonds the Father and the Son
So fill us all with mutual love and knit our hearts in one.

All glory to the Father be, all glory to the Son
All glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee while endless ages run.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God promised through a prophet long ago:
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.

**Our sons and daughters shall prophesy,
the young see visions, and the old dream dreams.**

God's spirit opens minds and hearts
to make the commonplace exceptional.

**We want to see, hear, and feel
what the Holy Spirit has in store for us.**

Listen for the wind and feel the flames;
be alert for God's surprises.

**Come, Holy Spirit, to make all things new;
light the flame of love in our lives.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Powerful God,
whose ways are beyond our knowing,
we long to grow spiritually.
We are thirsty for the living water you have promised to those who seek.
We are eager to catch the Spirit,
to be set on fire with confidence
and trust to use the gifts you have given.
Let Pentecost happen again in this gathering of your people.
Inspire us to witness to your love and prophesy in your name.
Give us courage to speak of your deeds of power,
and to take the risks of daring discipleship.
Amen.**

* HYMN #289

On Pentecost They Gathered
Verses 1,2 and 4

MUNICH

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. Below the treble staff, there are four lines of lyrics corresponding to the four verses of the hymn. The lyrics are: 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,

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.

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,

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 folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

This narrative and interpretive text was written to fill what the author perceived as an unfortunate gap in available hymns concerning the Holy Spirit in general and Pentecost in particular. The setting of a 17th-century German tune is from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
 MUSIC: *Neuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847
 Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

MUNICH
 7.6.7.6.D

* CALL TO CONFESSION

John Wheeler

The great and terrible day of God was,
 to the Old Testament prophet Joel, a time of judgment.
 He envisioned blood, smoke, and darkness.
 But from the depths of destruction and death there emerged,
 for both Joel and Peter, the New Testament apostle, possibilities for salvation.
 When threat and change are upon us,
 we are most ready to see God's signs and accept new opportunities.
 Ready or not, the Holy Spirit comes,
 and we are invited to put into words how things are going in our lives.
 Let us make our confession to Almighty God.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Amazing God,
we are bewildered by our continuing inability to make sense out of life.
Our visions and dreams far outpace reality,
and our expectations of ourselves are seldom realized.
We do not do the good we intend,
and the evil we thought we had left behind comes back to haunt us.
In our relations with others
there seems to be no common language to unite us,
and we resist including everyone in our concerns.
Forgive our sluggish responses and our resistance to change.
Purify and enliven us by your Spirit at work within and among us.**
(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE #284

*Holy Spirit, Come to Us
Choir*

TUI AMORIS IGNEM

Holy Spirit, come to us; kindle in us the fire of your love.
Holy Spirit, come to us. Holy Spirit, come to us.
Congregation

**Holy Spirit, come to us; kindle in us the fire of your love.
Holy Spirit, come to us. Holy Spirit, come to us.**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Receive the Holy Spirit. Our alienation from God is ended.
God takes us beyond our quarrels with sisters and brothers.
We can live at peace with ourselves.
The Sovereign One, on whose name we have called, has acted to save us.
Accept the good news of forgiveness and pass on the gift.
"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven;
if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
Praise God with your whole being!
Alleluia and Amen!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

EBENEZER

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with Pentecostal power;
Give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,
Still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

Your gift is needed for the church to be complete.

Your gift is expressed through your personal investment of time and talents,
but also through the money you received

for using your gifts day by day in your work.

What we invest in the church's work is an expression of our thanks to God
for all the gifts we have received.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I'm Gonna Sing 'till the Spirit Moves in My Heart*

Moses Hogan

I'm gonna sing 'till the Spirit moves in my heart. I'm gonna sing 'till Jesus comes.

It was grace that brought me, it was grace that taught me,
It was grace that kept me, and it's grace that will lead me home.

I'm gonna pray 'till the Spirit moves in my heart. I'm gonna pray 'till my Jesus comes.

Can't you feel the spirit moving? I'm gonna shout 'till the Spirit moves in my heart.

I'm gonna shout 'till Jesus comes. I'm gonna sing till my Jesus comes.

* DOXOLOGY #609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

John Wheeler

Let us join our voices in prayer:

On the first day of the week

we bring the first fruits of all our efforts for your blessing.

We want our offerings to empower today's disciples,

as the mighty wind and tongues of fire inspired

and equipped the early apostles.

As they gave their all to build your church,

we rededicate our lives to making the church

a vital force in today's world.

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Grant Us Lord

STUTTGART

Grant us, Lord, the grace of giving with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer unto thee. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Almighty God,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
speak to us in the language of our hearts,
that we may hear your Word with understanding
and answer your call with confidence. Amen.**

THE READINGS

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-21 (Inclusive Bible)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled.

But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken.

They were amazed and astonished: "Surely, all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome—all Jews, or converts to Judaism—Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!"

All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" But others said mockingly, "They've drunk too much new wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd:

"Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem!

Listen to what I have to say!

These people are not drunk as you think—it's only nine o'clock in the morning!

No, it's what Joel the prophet spoke of: 'In the days to come—it is our God who speaks—I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind.

Your daughters and sons will prophecy, your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams.

Even on the most insignificant of my people, both women and men, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

And I will display wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below:
blood, fire and billowing smoke.

The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon will become blood before
the coming of the great and sublime day of our God.

And all who call upon the name of our God will be saved.”

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God’s help we are listening.

Gospel

John 20:19-23 (Inclusive Bible)

In the evening of the same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked
in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of the crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again,
“Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I’m sending you.”

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone’s sins,
they are retained.”

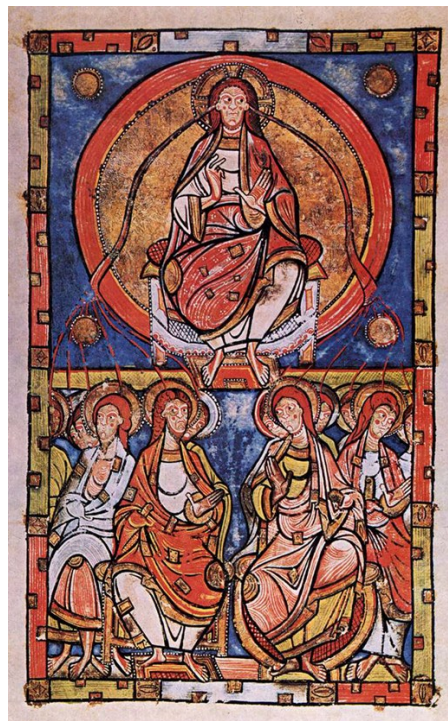
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“The Language of Our Hearts”



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

**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.**

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

Fine

1 Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's

2 Jor - dan Riv - er, chil - ly and cold, it chills the

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me, it looked so

bod - y but not the soul. There is but one train up - on this

fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

track. It runs to heav - en and then right back.

to Refrain

Like many African American spirituals, this one mixes the language of biblical narrative with veiled but effective allusions to the hope of escape from slavery, either by crossing rivers into free states or by participating in organized efforts like the Underground Railroad.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

The fire is burning in your life;
don't let it go out.

**God has set us ablaze with new possibilities,
and we are excited about where God may lead.**

You have a message to share;
don't mute or silence it.

**The wind blows where it will,
and we will not seek to divert it.**

As God sent Jesus into the world,
so Christ sends us to make a difference.

**We will go where Christ leads
and be alert to God's continuing surprises.**

Sing to the Holy One as long as you live;
praise God with your whole being.

**We will declare God's creative power to all
and speak of the manifold works of the Spirit.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

African American

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Veni Creator Spiritus*

Jeanne Demessieux

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Psalm 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Corine and Joseph McCalpine, Laurie Thomson, Tom LaRosa, Reene,
Carlos, Priscella, Anthony Buccino, Rosa Buccino, Sandy Colombo, Tralaina Davis,
Dorland, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur, Mary Orr, Sue Blazek,
Gwen and Elizabeth Baus, JoAnn Hood, the Jackson-Dix family
Drs. Peter and Rebekah Stafford and family

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.

@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday May 24/Day of Pentecost

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Monday May 25/Memorial Day

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday May 26

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday May 27

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Friday May 29

5:00PM Rummell/Abbomerato Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Saturday May 30

3:00PM Rummell/Abbomerato Wedding/Sanctuary

Sunday May 31 Trinity Sunday

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

12:00PM Holden Arboretum Tour/Western Reserve Room

1:40PM Guardians-Red Sox/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 2

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday June 3

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Saturday June 6

9:00AM Pride in Cle/Public Square

Sunday June 7 Pride Sunday

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:30AM Plant Exchange/Memorial Hall



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:40 Online:244

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

firstprescle.org/giving



Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
1380 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.

Checks should be made payable to “The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland.”

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

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Website: www.firstprescle.org **E-Mail:** info@firstprescle.org

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

Choir

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Bryce Sandoval, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Cali Jacobs, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Job Butcher, *bass*

Adam Whanger, *bass*

Mikayla Sweet, *trumpet*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan

Judy Macuga

Melissa Maffia

Harriet Niles

Marty Vassel

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Class of 2028

Dave Finley

Don Urban

Church Deacons:

Class of 2026

Mark Corey

Forrest Diehl

Pam Daly

Ruth Finley

Alyssa Niepokny

Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

Class of 2028

Valorie Hempstead

JoAnn Hood

Elie Medie

Brad Oglesby

Mark Pichler

Lori Montero

Church Trustees:

Class of 2027

Dave Eifert

Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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