



"Veni Sancti Spiritus" by Kossowski, Adam, 1965.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, pastor
and Matthew Lawrenz, musician

www.uccmke.org

This week we celebrate Pentecost. This is a perfect day to reflect on what it means to be “the Church.” The word Pentecost comes from the Greek word for “fiftieth.” It is the fiftieth and last day of the Easter season. Pentecost is the Christian reinterpretation of the ancient Jewish pilgrimage – the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot, which is celebrated 50 days after Passover. For the ancient Israelites, this festival included a harvest celebration and marked the reception of the Torah at Mount Sinai. The Old Testament reading from Numbers today speaks about the “divine spirit” being put onto the elders of the community. The New Testament reading from the Book of Acts recounts the community of early disciples being endowed by the power of God’s spirit. For Christians, Pentecost celebrates the reception of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and the birth of the Church. Happy birthday, Church!

Words of Welcome

A Song for Today

Echoes of Joy

arr. Hans-Andre Stamm
Musician, Matthew Lawrenz

Opening Litany

(UCC Worship Ways, adapted)

One: All elders and youth,
All: **Come and worship!**

One: All you saints, all you sinners,
All: **Come and worship!**

One: All You wise counselors, teachers, parents,
you who think deep thoughts,
all of you who have childlike faith,
you who heal the sick and do miraculous acts,
all who preach the Gospel,
you who can discern differing spirits,
all who are gifted with tongues,
All: **Come and worship!**

One: All you whose spirits are red with the Holy Spirit of Pentecost!
All: **Come and worship!**
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We praise God with one voice, one body,
one church, one mind, one spirit.



“Pentecost” by Vrelant, Guillaume, 1481

A Time for the Child in Us

[The Holy Spirit](#)

Spark Family Sunday School

Old Testament

[Numbers 11:24-30](#)

The book of Numbers tells the story of how Israel’s exodus generation entered the desert where many of them died, and how the generation that followed them prepared to claim the promise of a new land. In today’s reading, Moses begins to feel overwhelmed by the work of God. God shares God’s Spirit with seventy elders to help minister to the people. When two elders begin prophesying in the camp, Joshua tells Moses to stop them. However, Moses tells him not to be jealous – but to allow the Spirit to be at work in them. Those who do good and share the gifts of God’s spirit are doing God’s work.



"Pentecost" by Jesus Mafa, Cameroon, 1998.

New Testament

[Acts 2:1-21](#)

The Acts of the Apostles portrays Jesus' followers from their days with the risen Jesus in Jerusalem to Paul's mission in Rome. Acts has the same author as Luke's Gospel. In today's reading, during the harvest festival in Jerusalem, the disciples were gathered in a room when they suddenly experienced a rush of wind and a vision of divided tongues of fire appearing on their heads. The Holy Spirit allowed them to speak different languages.

Homily

Pentecost: Happy Birthday, Now Let's Go!

Rev. Dan Stark

Song of Response

Meditation on Veni Creator Spiritus

**arr. Larry Visser
Musician, Matthew Lawrenz**

**Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer**

Passing the Peace

One: Although we cannot be physically close to one another at this time, we can be relationally close. This Sunday morning, you are invited to pass the peace with your church family and loved ones by taking a moment to text, write, call, or message the people in your church family to let them know you are thinking of them. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Solo

Run to Jesus

**arr. Francesca Battistelli
soloist, Nancy Charles**

Sending

*Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday, Church of Christ - happy birthday to you!*

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
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You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ
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