

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020

I'm so glad you're taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.

—Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Prayer

Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your faithful.

Kindle us with the fire of your love.

God of wind and fire, you come swirling gently to gather us, gusting mightily to dislodge us; flickering warmly to encourage us, blazing brightly to show us the way. As we gather to worship, may we be attentive to you, open to the currents and sparks filling our lives and shaping your creation. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart/Spirit of the Living God*

Kathy Young

We Share the Story of God

A Reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verses 15-17, 25-27

Ethan Jensen

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask my Father, and God will give you another Helper, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Spirit nor knows Spirit. You know Spirit, because Spirit abides with you, and God’s Spirit will be in you.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom God the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

A Reading from the Book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 1-4

Allie Livingston

When the day of Pentecost had come, [those who followed Jesus] were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verses 13-16, 19-23 Sarah Myers

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. . . . Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God

Responding in Song: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* (UMH 500)

Spirit of God,
descend upon my heart;
wean it from sin;
through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness,
mighty as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
love you with all our heart
and strength and mind?
I see the cross,
there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the kindling of the
heaven-descended Dove;
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing:

May we move forward together from this Day of Pentecost, filled by God's Holy Spirit, riding the winds of grace, energized with the fire of life, offering the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- In what ways are you feeling stuck in your spiritual journey? Your life?
- What gets in the way of your being able to move forward? Pray the Serenity Prayer: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."
- What does moving forward look like to you? In what ways does your path forward overlap with the way of Jesus? Ask God's Spirit to remind you and teach you Jesus' way.
- How might the practice of Jesus' command to love one another help you?
- Be attentive to where you see the "fruit of the Spirit" growing and move toward that this week.