



**Pentecost Sunday**

**First United Church of Christ**

**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation**

**May 23, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

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Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

**Prelude** *Variations on 'Down Ampney'* Jan Bender (1909-1994)

**Testimony and Welcome** Marja Steinberg

**Announcements and Lighting of the Candle**

**Gathering Music** *Where Two or Three are Gathered*

**Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.**

**Call to Worship** Adapted from Thom Shuman

One: Gathering in this Sanctuary, together but apart.  
Gathering online here but there, this is still the day we celebrate  
Grace's breath shattering the shutters of our hearts.

**Many: May we continue to let the Spirit of new life breathe upon us!**

One: No matter where we are we gather with our siblings in Christ,  
proclaiming that we are God's Pentecost.

**Many: In the days to come, we will continue to speak  
of God's love and the Spirit's peace for all.**

One: Come Holy Spirit, come among us.

**Many: Make of us one people united in your love, peace and hope.**

**Opening Hymn** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* #293

*A congregational wave will be created during the refrain as we quietly hum, sending the Spirit from one person to the next.*

Refrain: **Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
When we shall leave this place.**

**There's a sweet, sweet, spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**There are blessings you cannot receive  
Till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;  
You're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way."**

**Time With Children**

**God's word is for all God's children; come gather, come gather.  
You're never too old for stories; come listen, come listen.**

**Scripture** Selected verses from Acts 2 Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Sermon** Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

**Prayer Hymn** *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* #270

<b>Like the murmur of the dove's song, Like the challenge of her flight, Like the vigor of the wind's rush, Like new flame's eager might: Come, Holy Spirit, come.</b>	<b>To the members of Christ's body, To the branches of the Vine, To the church i faith assembled, To our midst as gift and sign: Come, Holy Spirit, come.</b>
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**With the healing of division,  
With the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
With the power to love and witness,  
With the peace beyond compare:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**The Prayers**

*We will pray in four parts. First, we will breathe. Second, we will offer prayers for the world, for the people we love, for the concerns we have. Third, we will offer prayers of thanks and gratitude. Finally, we will pray the Prayer of Jesus. In between we will sing. You are invited to share prayers with the congregation by vocalizing in the Sanctuary or online using the Zoom chat function.*

**Sung Response** *More Than We Can Ask*

Refrain: **More than we can ask, more than we can ask, more than we can ask or imagine.**  
One: Hear, o hear our prayer. Many: **Hear, o hear our prayer.**

**Prayer of Jesus**

*You are invited to pray the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:*

**Our God, 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.**

**Sung Amen**

**Offertory**

*Song of Peace*

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

**Prayer of Thanks**

**Great Spirit, you have blessed us beyond our imagining and knowing. May the generosity we extend not only bless us in our giving but bless others too so that hungers are filled, thirsts quenched, and justice fulfilled. Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending**

*God, Bless Our Homes*

#429

**God, bless our homes with peace and love and laughter,  
With understanding and with loyalty.  
May we together follow Christ our savior  
And know the blessing of community.**

**May every heart receive God's loving spirit  
And know the truth that makes life truly free;  
Then, in that spirit may we live united,  
And find in God our deep security.**

**O God, in gratitude for homes and loved ones,  
We open now our hearts to humankind.  
Grant us your spirit—love for all our neighbors—  
So in your peace may we our concord find.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

**We are so glad you joined us for worship today! Please join us in breakout rooms on Zoom. We hope you will stay!**

## **News to Note**

**Welcome to worship at First UCC!** Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#). Other questions about our community? Please contact Pastor Wendy ([pastorwendy@firstucc.org](mailto:pastorwendy@firstucc.org)) or Pastor Lauren ([pastorlauren@firstucc.org](mailto:pastorlauren@firstucc.org)).

### **ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)**

State government leaders have agreed on a budget but will meet in special session, likely around June 14, to pass omnibus bills still being negotiated in conference committees so they fit the budget. Now is a good time to contact your Senator and Senate leadership and urge them to embrace bills making Minnesota more equitable, serving all citizens. Questions? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org)

### **Race Matters in Healthcare June 8 on Zoom**

Join First UCC, along with co-sponsors ARLA of Bethel and St. John's Women, for a presentation and discussion on June 8 at 9:30 a.m. led by Dr. Rod Christensen on racial inequities and the American

healthcare system. "Race Matters in Healthcare" will take place on Zoom, and registration is required. Visit [tinyurl.com/racemattersinhealthcare](http://tinyurl.com/racemattersinhealthcare) to RSVP.

### **Giving to the Church**

Thank you for your continued giving during this time of pandemic! First UCC's ministry continues thanks to your generosity. You may give electronically by visiting our website and clicking the "[Donate Online Now!](#)" button, under the Giving tab. You may also visit our website and complete the [electronic giving authorization form](#) and mailing it to the church % "The Treasurer." Gifts may be mailed to First UCC, 300 Union Street, Northfield, MN 55057.

**For additional news and announcements, please visit [firstucc.org/contact-us/the-chronicle/](http://firstucc.org/contact-us/the-chronicle/) to subscribe to weekly editions of The Chronicle (First UCC's e-news) and to view recent issues.**

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### **Thanks to this Week's Leaders:**

**Ushers:** Anne Meyer Ruppel, Linda Larson, Crystal Henslin, Kris Felbeck,  
Elise Eslinger, Jeffrey Latterell, Annika Reister

**Testimony & Welcome:** Marja Steinberg

**Reader:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Sound Tech:** Jacob Reister

**ASL Interpretation:** Mary Jo Cristofaro

**Digital Zoom Host:** Carl Henry

### **First UCC Leadership & Staff**

**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Sam Steinberg

**Interim Senior Minister:** Wendy Vander Hart

**Minister for Congregational Life:** Lauren Baske Davis

**Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle

**Organist:** Theo Wee

**Director of Communications & Operations:** Green Bouzard

**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Sexton:** Mark Fischer