

Day of Pentecost



**May 23, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.
on Facebook **Live****

**or on our church website
at westminsterakron.org**

COME

Opening Voluntary Variation III on “Veni, Creator Spiritus” Maurice Duruflé

We welcome you to Westminster’s online worship service this Sunday. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.

If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today’s bulletin on our church website at westminsterakron.org.

*Call to Worship Acts 2:17, 21 Kristy Yates

God declares: “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.

Your sons and daughters, men and women shall prophesy.

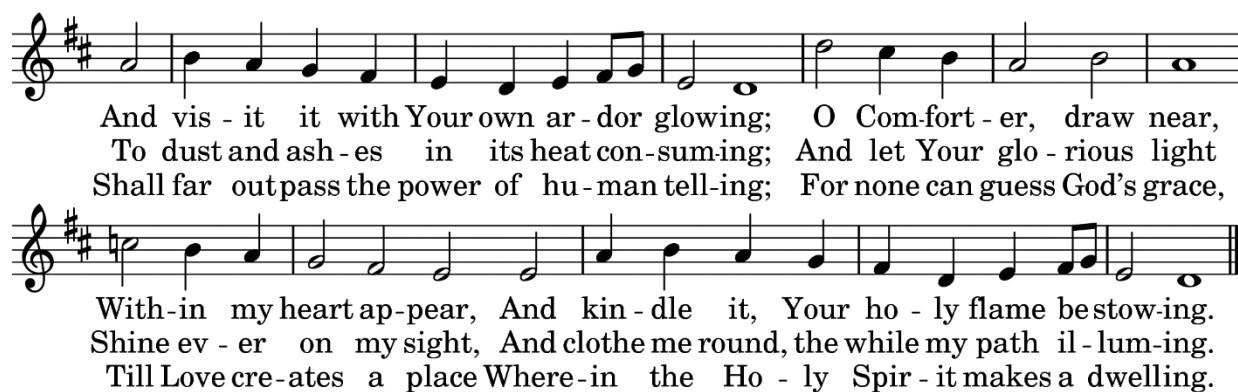
The young shall see visions.

The elders shall dream dreams.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

*Hymn 313 Come Down, O Love Divine DOWN AMPNEY

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek out this soul of mine
2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3. And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul will long



And vis - it it with Your own ar - dor glowing; O Com - fort - er, draw near,
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing; And let Your glo - rious light
Shall far outpass the power of hu - man tell - ing; For none can guess God's grace,
With - in my heart ap - pear, And kin - dle it, Your ho - ly flame bestow - ing.
Shine ev - er on my sight, And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
Till Love cre - ates a place Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwelling.

ENCOUNTER

Call to Confession

Let us call on the name of the One who invites us to speak the truth about ourselves and our relationships and promises to show us mercy.

Prayer of Confession

Romans 8:26

Holy and Merciful God, we do not know how to pray as we ought, and we know too well our constant failures to do as you have commanded and to hold fast to your word. Forgive us for the divisions we nurture, guide us to your way, keep us in your care, and lead us into faith. We trust your word that the Spirit of truth will show us all things and grant us courage and peace. Amen.

Silence is observed.

Response 574

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

People of God, body of Christ, sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God's truth has come upon creation and upon you, to interpret the mysteries of eternal time. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, and by the authority of the church, I declare to you the complete forgiveness of your sin. Be at peace with one another because of God's mercy.

*Response 567

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

The Holy Spirit was sent to increase our compassion and to make us glad to spread good news by caring for those in need. May you enter into the discipline of giving as a work of the Holy Spirit within you.

Anthem

Pentecost

Arr. Mark Schweizer

Come O Spirit of Fire to all peoples inspire, Holy wind, holy fire rushing down in glory, Tell the ancient story. Rushing wind, wind, wind, Tongues of flame, flame, flame, Rushing wind, tongues of flame, Who will tell the story?

Come O Spirit of Flame, To your people proclaim God in Spirit became For us to inherit God the Son and Spirit. Rushing wind, wind, wind, Tongues of flame, flame, flame, Rushing wind, tongues of flame, Who will tell the story?

Come O Spirit of Light, Pentecost is your might, Seven gifts sent aright To your congregation, Blessing every nation. Rushing wind, wind, wind, Tongues of flame, flame, flame, Rushing wind, tongues of flame, Who will tell the story?

God, the Son, Spirit blest, Ever our welcomed guest, Be all honor addressed, Endless praise be given To the Lord in heaven. Rushing wind, wind, wind, Tongues of flame, flame, flame, Rushing wind, tongues of flame, Who will tell the story? Rushing wind, tongues of flame, We will tell the story.

Come, O Spirit of Love, From the Lord, high above, Come, O heavenly dove, Shine in all your glory, Tell the ancient story.

*Response 592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Time with Young Disciples

GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused the people, come to us now to fill our ears with the sound of your breath, fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other, and fill our hearts with your good Word. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Romans 8:22-27

New Testament

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;
23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Second Lesson

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

New Testament

26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.
27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

16:4b "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.
5 But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'
6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.
7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
8 And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:
9 about sin, because they do not believe in me;
10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;
11 about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.
12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

14 He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

15 All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Never Alone

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

SERVE

*Affirmation of Faith

The Spirit renews our hearts and moves us to faith, leads us into truth, and helps us to pray, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant. God the Spirit lavishes gifts on the church in astonishing variety - equipping each member to build up the body of Christ. Sent by the Spirit, the church is thrust into the world, ambassadors of God's peace, announcing forgiveness and reconciliation, proclaiming the good news of grace. Men and women, impelled by the Spirit, go next door and far away into science and art, media and marketplace - every area of life, pointing to the reign of God with what they do and say.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying,
hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

In gratitude for all that you have done for us, Holy God, we pray: for the people in every land; for those who continually teach the faith; for witnesses who by their example show your steadfast love; for all who are estranged from the church; and for the strength to walk in your ways and observe your command;
hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

For nations, communities, and families torn by violence; for leaders and protesters, for managers and visionaries; for dictators and peacemakers; for the allies of our nation and for our enemies;
hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

For Earth and its riches; for soil and wetlands, trees, bushes, rivers and lakes, oceans and air; and for all the people who inhabit this great creation; for the ability to choose life for all creatures and to honor the welfare of generations to come;

hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

For all people who are victims of injustice; for those who are unemployed or underemployed; for those living on the streets of our cities; for everyone affected by divorce; for people struggling with addiction, anger, fear, or illness; for all who have asked this congregation for prayer; for those we name in our hearts...

hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

For this community of faith; for those who worship every week and for those who cannot access our online services; for the young and the old; for newcomers and long-familiar faces; for the newly baptized in every land; for those who are seeking to know you;

hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Thanksgiving for all the saints who served you in life and whose proclamation of the gospel continues to renew the church;

hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Into your promises, we entrust all those whose needs are known to us today and those whose needs are only known to you. Grant peace to all, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We pray silently...

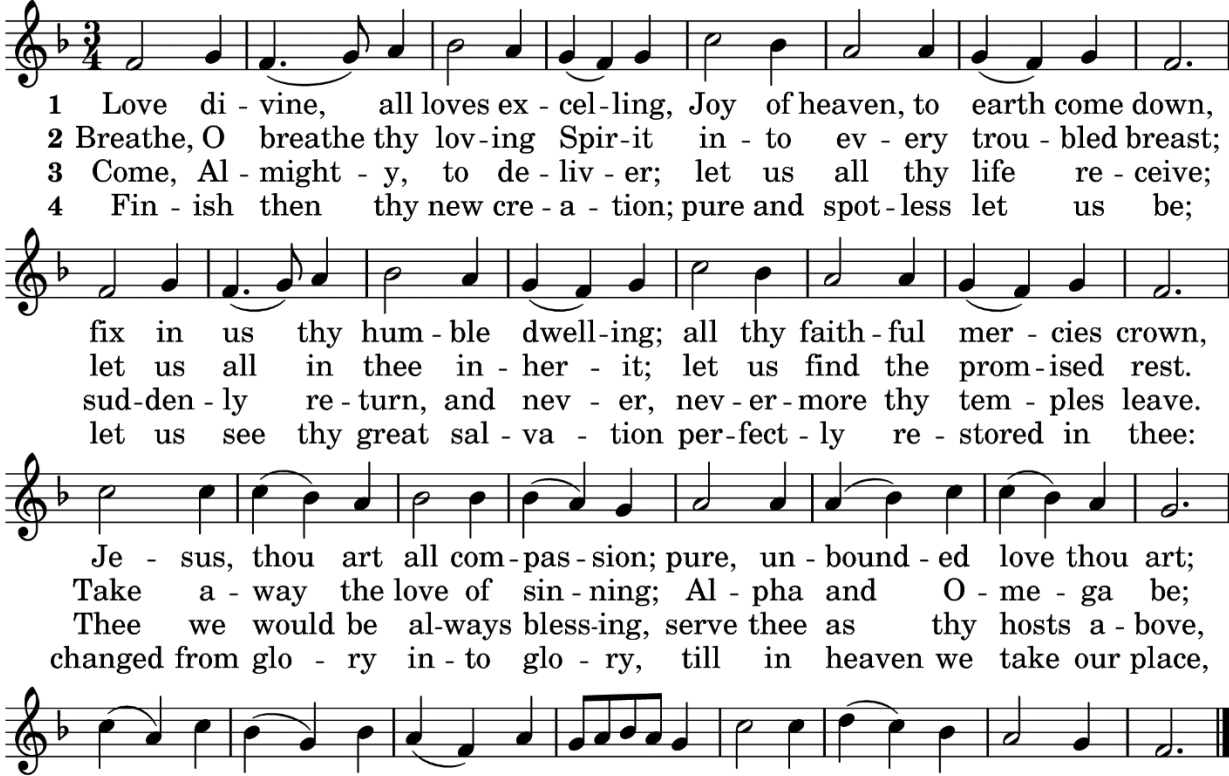
And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

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 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.



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;
 fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown,
 let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:
 Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,
 vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trembling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

Jesus did not leave us without hope but sent the Holy Spirit to nurture faith and love in this world. Live this vision in all that you do: respond to rancor with kindness, be patient where there is pain, and let your dreams become reality.

The Holy Spirit has come to inhabit this world with freedom, truth, and understanding. You are not alone. May God keep you and make your prayers bear fruit.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers in the Chancel are given by Harriet Chapman in honor and in loving memory of John D. Chapman on the week of his 98th birthday and in gratitude for all active and deceased U. S. Marines. Semper Fidelis!

Staff Farewells As we prepare to say "farewell" to Sheila Svoboda, Valerie Thorson, and Adam Kalcic as members of our staff team, we encourage you to either hand deliver a card of appreciation to a box in the fellowship hall, or mail them to our church office.

Drive Thru Farewell for Sheila Svoboda Today in the back parking lot of the church from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Please note the farewell for Valerie Thorson will be held following in-person worship on Sunday, June 6.

Pentecost Is Today and we celebrate the birth of the church and it occurs on the 50th day after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. The liturgical color is red to symbolize the apostles "tongues of fire and also the blood of martyrs." It marks the Christian Church's missions in the world. Twenty five percent of your Pentecost contribution will remain at WPC and will be used to support the mission of children, youth, and young adults at risk. This year's project is Fostering Independence which supports teens aging out of foster care. Giving was approximately \$100 less last year than in 2019. Surely, we can correct that by giving generously today.

Vacation Time Pastor Hauerwas will be on vacation from May 27 to June 3. For pastoral care needs, please contact our main office. The Reverend George Murphy will be preaching on May 30. The offices will be close on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day, and there will be no Bible Study that day.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of May 23-29, 2021	
Sunday, 5/23 Pentecost 9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom 9:50 am Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live 1:00 pm Drive Thru Farewell for Sheila Svoboda	Tuesday, 5/25 7:00 pm Session Zoom Meeting
Monday, 5/24 1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	Wednesday, 5/26 7:00 pm Properties Zoom Meeting
	Thursday, 5/27 9:30 am Zoom WPC Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education



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