

Order of Worship

May 24, 2026



Welcome and announcements *Spirit Medley*

Prelude *America the Beautiful* – arr. Tedd Hustad

***Call to worship** (based on Acts 2:1-4)

All together in one place;

they heard the rush of a violent wind;

it filled the entire house.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each of them;

they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

***Opening Hymn # 289** *On Pentecost They Gathered*

***Call to confession**

God's Spirit is alive and at work among us, gathering us for worship, calling us to return to God through prayer, praise and confession. Let us pray together.

***Prayer of confession**

Spirit of the Living God, we hesitate and doubt. You call us to act boldly, but fear keeps us quiet and circling. We confess our lack of courage, splintered by uncertainty and second-guessing. Forgive us for all the times we shrink from your call. Embolden us to dream beyond what we know and imagine the world as beloved community. Let your Spirit fill us, prodding us beyond inertia. Grant that we might be Christ's body, not in fits and starts but with steady conviction. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us be active participants in ushering in your peaceable kingdom. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

***Assurance of pardon** (Acts 2:21)

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem *When He Came* – by Ruthie Elaine Schram

Prayer for illumination

Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, Holy God,
that we might hear and receive the message you intend for us today.
Amen.

Scripture readings Psalm 127; Acts 2: 1 - 21; John 7: 37 - 39

Sermon *The Arrow of Victory*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

***Affirmation of faith** (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.**

Hymn of Response # 288 *Spirit of the Living God

Call for the offering

God's Spirit is among us making all things new. Let us participate in this new creation by offering our gifts to God.

Offertory *My Country 'Tis of Thee* – arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Doxology # 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Prayer of dedication**

You give with open hands, Most Generous God, sharing gifts as seed to sow. We gather these offerings, asking only that they might take root and flourish — to tend your Kingdom, to nurture your beloved community. Let our acts be not merely ritual but a commitment: a shaping of the world in your image, one generous gesture at a time. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of the gathering wind, as we celebrate Pentecost and feel summer's first warm breath, plant in us the quiet courage of seeds beneath soil — small but determined, destined to rise. Align our seasons with your divine rhythms. Let us unfurl in righteousness like morning glories opening to dawn light, like wheat fields bending golden under your gaze.

Spirit of Peace, in these days when violence seems to engulf us — when weapons thunder across borders, when classrooms become places of terror, when families walk endless miles seeking shelter — deliver us from the darkness we have allowed to flourish. Guide the long journey of human history toward your promised justice. Grant us the strength to stand against hatred's divisions, to speak your love that knows no boundaries, to transform systems that perpetuate suffering, to be steadfast in our pursuit of peace.

Wind of wisdom, Breath of understanding, You who once drew scattered people together at Pentecost — kindle in us a hospitality that mirrors Christ's open arms. Unseal our hearts to truly see the journeys others walk. Fill us with that love which defies boundaries, which heals what seems beyond repair. Let us become your unified voice rising from many throats, your single body formed of countless limbs, offering gratitude for the redemption you have promised and continue to unfold among us.

Merciful One, attend to these whispered hopes we offer. Together now, as Christ's living presence, we turn to the ancient words that Jesus gave us praying... **"Our Father..."**

Hymn of Sending # 69 *Here I Am, Lord

Recognition of Graduates and Prayer

In Psalm 127 we are told that the young are like arrows in the hands of a warrior. The OT records the story of an ancient king who was summoned by a prophet to shoot an arrow. He did so, and that arrow was called the arrow of the Lord's Victory.

Before us today, Lord, are arrows of Your Victory. These are young men you have formed and gifted for such an hour as this.

For though these are days like the prophet Isaiah described — days of uncertainty, when thick darkness covers the people — we also know that they are days of incredible opportunity.

May each one of these graduates fly as an arrow of truth to a society often muddled about right and wrong; as an arrow of compassion to the unloved and unwanted; as an arrow of light pointing to a day when the Lord Jesus will reign over the earth.

I pray that they would know the 'hope of their calling' and, like Timothy, stir up the gift within them. That when in the course of things they are tempted to lose heart they would know that they are indeed arrows of Your Victory.

That they are not consigned to a random existence, but— called to be Your mouthpiece, penetrating a distracted and weary world with the wonder of Your wisdom, called to be an extension of Your hand of grace to the many they will touch who have never known what grace feels like, called to run in shoes of peace, bearing the Good News that Jesus has made a way for people to know God.

Grant them the gift of faith – a faith that will illumine every season of hardship and darkness. Grant them a love for Your Word, a heart for prayer, a song of praise and a sensitive ear to your Spirit.

For they will encounter many crossroads in life; not just crossroads of career – but much more importantly crossroads of character.

Times when they will have to decide whether or not to take the path that most glorifies You – even if it means being less successful or lesser known in the eyes of others.

In these days of easily discarded relationships, help them know what it means to be a faithful friend, husband, or father.

In these days that seem so frantic, help each of them to know Your peace which passes all understanding.

In these days when they will most surely navigate through seas of change and even crisis, help them forge anchors of wisdom out of every disappointment.

And then give them a heart to pass that wisdom on to their children.

And may they never lack in passion for You.

Grant them a spirit that pursues You above all else.

For at the end of the day, we know that it is not about making our mark, but pressing on to Your mark, that prize for which Paul himself strained – the moment when the Master says, “Well done” and the ‘forever’ we will have of knowing You face-to-face.

— written by Steve Fry and posted on his blog [*The Radical Middle*](#).

Charge and benediction

May the spark of God ignite you. May the love of Christ renew you. May the Holy Spirit fill you on this Pentecost Sunday and the days to come. **Amen.**

Postlude *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Jessye Whitis, Music Director and Pianist; Kay Atwood, Liturgist

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott

Lunch in the Fellowship Hall