

# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

*A United Church of Christ*



*Pentecost, Sadao Watanabe (Japan 1975)*

**Pentecost Sunday**  
**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## Prelude

“Come, Holy Spirit”

*Arr. Dietrich Buxtehude*

## Greeting and Announcements

### Passing of the Peace of Christ

### Call to Worship

One: We gather to worship the God who created us,

**All: The God who calls us and equips us for service,**

One: The God who loves us without end.

**All: We gather to worship with gratitude and hope.**

One: With joyful hearts, let us worship our God.

### \*Hymn

“When Morning Guilds the Skies”

NCH #86

### First Reading:

Acts 2: 1-21

Nancy Olson

One: When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

**All: There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, “Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?”**

One: “They’re speaking our languages, describing God’s mighty works!” Their heads were spinning; they couldn’t make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: “What’s going on here?” Others joked, “They’re drunk on cheap wine.”

**All: That’s when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: “Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren’t drunk as some of you suspect. They haven’t had time to get drunk—it’s only nine o’clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:**

One: “In the Last Days,” God says, “I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. When the time comes, I’ll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they’ll prophesy. I’ll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billowing smoke, the sun turning black and the moon blood-red, before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous; and whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved.”

**Hymn** “Spirit of the Living God” NCH #283  
*[Please remain seated for this hymn]*

**Second Reading:** Ezekiel 37: 1-14

One: While I was in the God’s spirit, God’s power overcame me and led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. God led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

- All:** God asked me, “Human one, can these bones live again?” I said, “Almighty One, only you know.”
- One:** God said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord’s word! The Almighty proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.”
- All:** **I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.**
- One:** God said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath, The Almighty proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live.”
- All:** **I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.**
- One:** God said to me, “Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.’ So now, prophesy and say to them, Almighty God proclaims: ‘I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land. You will know that I am God, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am God. I’ve spoken, and I will do it.’ This is what God says.”

## Sermon

**\*Hymn**                    “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”                    NCH #292

### **Blessing of the Prayer Shawls (In Unison)**

*(At this time, the prayer shawls will be brought to the front of the Church to be blessed by Reverend Milton Brasher-Cunningham and our Congregation.)*

**May God's grace be upon these shawls that were created to be warming, comforting, and embracing. May they provide a sacred sense of security and compassion to those they surround, sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May those who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Amen.**

### **The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family**

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Carol Fitzsimons; Marilyn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; and Gilbert Spencer.

### **Moments of Silent Prayer**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Call to Offering**

## Special Offering: Strengthen the Church

*(Please place your offerings for our special Offering into the offering plates at this time.)*

### Offertory

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

*Arr. Wilber Held*

### \*The Doxology

*(In Unison)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,***

***Praise God all creatures here below,***

***Praise God for all that Love has done,***

***Creator, Christ, and Spirit—One. Amen.***

### \*Prayer of Dedication

*(In Unison)*

**Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all you have given us. Teach us to measure our wealth not by what we have, but by what we can share. May what we offer reflect your generosity and spread your love throughout your church, your people, and your creation. Amen.**

### \*Hymn

“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind” [Page 6]

### Benediction

### Postlude

“CM RHODDA”

*Arr. Wilber Held*

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*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,  
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,  
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

\*Hymn

“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -  
2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your  
3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from  
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;  
pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,  
leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,  
rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,  
let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,  
for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;  
may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!  
kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!  
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!  
claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Shirts and Skirts meeting for this month will be held in the parish hall on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. We have scheduled an Indoor Picnic. Please bring your own picnic supper. Paper goods, dessert, beverages, and entertainment will be provided. Please come and join in for an evening of fun and fellowship.

We are always looking for Volunteers for Coffee Hour. If you are interested, please contact Aren in the office, or use the sign-up sheet now located near the main entrance to the Parish House.

Copies of the 2024 Directory are available in the Office. If you would like a digital copy of our Directory, please fill out the following Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/directory>) and we will send you a copy as soon as possible. If you would like a physical copy, please contact the office and we will set a copy aside for you.

We are always looking for new pictures for the Church website! If you happen to attend a Church event, please feel free to snap a few pictures and send them to us by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com).

Keep your Ark Banks floating! Please don't forget to keep bringing in your Ark Banks. The monies collected go into a discretionary fund which can be used to help people in need. If you have not yet picked up a bank, or need a replacement, they can be found in the narthex or in the entrance to the parish hall.

Donations for the Food Bank are needed if you are able to contribute. Non-perishable items such as canned beef stew, hearty soups, canned fish, peanut butter, mac and cheese packages, and oatmeal would be greatly appreciated.



# **MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP: A LOOK AHEAD**

*Please join us every Sunday at 10am for service!*

## **May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Trinity Sunday**

*First Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 6: 1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8: 12-17  
John 3: 1-17

## **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

*Second Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)  
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12  
Mark 2:23-3:6

## **June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Third Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 8: 4-11 (12-15)  
Psalm 138  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3: 20-35

**Guest:** Lillian Steinmayer

## **June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13  
Psalm 20  
2 Corinthians 5: 6-17  
Mark 4: 26-34

**Guest:** Tom Duffy

# **JUNE AND JULY WORSHIP: A LOOK AHEAD**

*Please join us every Sunday at 10am for service!*

## **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

*Fifth Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 17: 32-49  
Psalm 9: 9-20  
2 Corinthians 6: 1-13  
Mark 4: 35-41

**Guest:** Aren Alberico

## **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Sixth Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 8: 7-15  
Mark 5: 21-43

## **July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Holy Communion**

*Seventh Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10  
Psalm 48  
2 Corinthians 12: 2-10  
Mark 6: 1-13

## **July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Eighth Sunday After Pentecost*

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19  
Psalm 24  
Ephesians 1: 3-14  
Mark 6: 14-29



## Looking for a Space to Host Your Next Event?

From family reunions to birthday parties, small group meetings to dance classes, we here at the Mount Carmel Congregational Church are open for short-term bookings and rentals!

We have several facilities which are currently available to rent out, including our **Parish Hall**, a perfect space for dance classes and community dinners, and our **Parlor**, a great environment for small groups to meet.

With reasonable rates for members and non-profit groups, we look forward to servicing the needs of our community!

For any additional information regarding any of our facilities or pricing, please visit our website (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/rent>). You may also feel free to contact our office by phone at (203) 248-7408 or by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com) with any further questions.

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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