

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: John D. Jordan
Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey
Church Musician: [blank]
AV Assistant: K. C. Warble
Soloist: Dan Greshel
Time Together: Wayne & Charlie Hooker

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...”

Tom Lloyd Patsy Shuler Lynn Martin Kathy Aiello George Taylor
Ted Frady Oren Edwards Latson Lewis Steve Aiello Steve White

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

Family and Friends: Mitch Kelly (*Dale Wells' nephew*); Chip Hooker (*Wayne Hooker's father*); Robert Bradley (*Business Associate of Simon Ross*); Dave Burrell (*Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton*); Gene Odom (*grandfather of Mark Branham*); Gary Becton (*friend of Mark Branham*); Audrey Cassady (*sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson*); Rusty Browning (*friend of Erin Derrick*); Monnie Tiller, Mrs. Miles (*friends of Chris Derrick*); Donna Walker (*coworker of Jack Stevens*); Paul Kidney (*son-in-law of Charles & Jackie McNeill*); Ruby Pennington (*friend of Laurie Knapp*); Rick Baldwin (*nephew of Tommy Johnson*); Judy Bauer (*cousin of Marty Johnson*); Betty Jean Newton (*sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff*); Adrin & Linda Hargett (*stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey*); Brenlee Carnes; Danielle Spotts (*co-worker of Kathy White*); Vickie Edwards (*neighbor of Kathy White*); George Duke, Brenda Grier (*friends of Lynn Martin*); Heather Stevens, Ty Moore, George Dorn (*friends of Kay Jordan*); Teddy Derrick (*uncle of Arvan Derrick*); Haidee Baehr (*friends of Ruth Frady*); Dianne Schmotzer (*sister-in-law of Gale Frady*); Denise Paul (*cousin of Gale Frady*); Dan Conner, Max Johnson (*friends of Gale Frady*); Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt (*mother of friend of Ray Culbreth*); Amelia Zinski (*great-niece of Linda Maloch*); Wayne Blair (*son of Dot Johnson*); Xavier Crane (*grandnephew of John Ballentine*); Janet Beck (*friend of Jo Ann Heiting*); Adam Lavender (*son of Phil Lavender*)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 05/16 Worship: 28

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/16 \$ 5,025.00 Epworth 05/16 \$ 100.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

5/24 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
5/27 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent
The Congregation
John D. Jordan
Jonathan Holston
Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



*All of them
were filled with
the Holy Spirit...*

Acts 2:4, NRSV

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Back in the 1970s the comedian George Carlin had a bit entitled "The Seven Words You Can't Say on Television". Now this was back when there were only the three commercial networks- ABC, NBC, and CBS- and the fledgling PBS. If you lived in a major metropolitan area there might be a few independent stations. So, what was said on television could be strictly regulated.

In Carlin's bit he would run the seven words together so fast that you really had to listen closely to hear each word. Now these are words that most would consider profane, not profound. These were words that would lead many a child to become connoisseurs of soap like Ralphie in *A Christmas Story*. These were words that many people would not say, much less want to hear, on television.

Of course, if these were words we didn't like to hear on television, we sure didn't want to hear or speak them in church. In fact, even thinking one of these words could send one immediately to the altar to repent and ask forgiveness. These were words we did not like to hear spoken anywhere and definitely not in church.

In addition to these seven words there is one other word that we don't like to hear in church. We don't like to hear this word about ourselves and we don't like to hear it about our church. It is a word that many believe should never, ever, be spoken in church. Some consider this word to be worse than Carlin's seven words that couldn't be said on television.

The irony is that this word that we don't like to say in church is what Christianity and the Church is really all about. It is the word that is predominant in the story of Pentecost which we read today. It is the word of what happened on that day of Pentecost. It is the word that describes what happened to the disciples gathered in that place. It is the word that describes what happened to many of those that heard what the disciples said that day. It is the word that describes what happened to that community of disciples that day.

And that word is:

CHANGE.

Yes, change, and I am not talking about those coins in the bottom of your pocket. We don't like to hear that word change. We don't like it in reference to ourselves, things about us that people may say we need to change. We don't like it in reference to the church, things about the church that people say should change in some way. We don't like that word change.

But that is what Pentecost is all about. Look at the changes that took place on that day when the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples.

The disciples were gathered in one place. They were anticipating the baptism of Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised when he ascended. What was this Holy Spirit? They didn't know. They knew that it was power on high. There may have been some uncertainty, apprehension, fear, excitement and who knows what other thoughts going through their heads, when suddenly came this sound like the rush of a mighty wind and tongues like fire resting on each one of them. And they changed.

Each of them was able to speak in a different language. They were Galileans but they were speaking in at least fourteen different languages. That would be like me suddenly speaking in Polish if there was a Polish speaking family in the congregation today. They came out from the room where they had been and began boldly speaking about God's deeds of power. They changed from those ordinary men and women who spoke only a Galilean dialect to multi-linguists.

Talk about change, look at Peter. Peter, who just a few weeks before this denied even knowing Jesus, stood up and preached the first sermon in Church history. He quotes the prophet Joel 2: 28-32a verbatim. I doubt that Peter was a Biblical scholar so being able to quote one of the minor prophets verbatim is quite remarkable. He preached a sermon that, instead of condemning the Jews for killing Jesus, revealed that Jesus was raised from the dead in accordance with God's plan. He revealed to those in Jerusalem that day that the death and resurrection of Jesus was God's plan for salvation. What they were seeing was the fulfillment of God's plan, the Holy Spirit being poured out on all men.

What about the Church? What a change! If we take the number from last week's reading there were only 120 people, men and women, in the room that morning. The spirit rested on each of those 120 men and women. At the end of the day about **three thousand** persons were baptized and added to the community thus marking the birth of the church. Talk about church growth. That is a 250% increase in one day!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if that happened today? Does God still pour out the Holy Spirit on us today and if so, why aren't events of this nature taking place today?

The answer to that may be that out of love for us God gave us free will. The disciples received the Holy Spirit that morning then responded by acting according to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. They did not sit around admiring each other's tongue of fire. They responded to the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit by leaving the room, going out, and proclaiming God's deeds and power. They responded to the power given to them through the Holy Spirit to change and become instruments of God's plan to reclaim creation. They responded to the Spirit and changed.

The Spirit is active in the world today. The Spirit is active in this church this morning. The Spirit is active in the lives of each of you participating on-line, this morning or some other time. The Spirit is active in the lives of you reading these words. The Spirit is active, the Spirit is moving, the Spirit is being poured out on all of us here, at home or wherever we may be. God didn't just pour out the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit on us every day!

So, why is the world still in the mess it is in today? Why hasn't the world changed? You might be able to guess the reason for that. We have not responded to the power of the Holy Spirit as those first disciples did. We resist change. We resist the Spirit.

Probably our resistance to change is due to one thing, our pride. In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis maintains that pride is the complete anti God state of mind. Our pride (and I am preaching to the preacher just as much or more so) keeps us from responding to the Holy Spirit. We may think, “I have been saved. I’m a good Christian. I don’t need to change the way I act. I don’t need to change the way I talk. I don’t need to change my attitudes. I don’t need to change.”

In our pride we resist the Holy Spirit’s urging for us to change. We are not to change simply for the sake of change but so we may be made perfect. The Holy Spirit urges us to change so we may be transformed into what GOD created us to be. Not what we want to be, not what our parents want us to be, not what society wants us to be, not even what the church wants us to be, but we are being transformed by the Spirit into what God wants us to be as we give up our pride and resistance to change.

Those disciples in the room that morning of Pentecost knew they needed to change. They knew that they were to be witnesses to the Good News of Jesus. They knew that they could not be witnesses until they received the power of the Holy Spirit that came that day of Pentecost. From their humility they were able to respond to the power of the Spirit to be the witnesses they were created to be. They were able to change.

For us to be able to respond to the Holy Spirit today we must let go of our pride. We must admit that while we are being made perfect, we are not perfect. We need to respond to the Holy Spirit out of our humility so we may change, grow and become the person God created us to be.

I had a co-worker who called in one day saying that they were at the shop where their car was towed because the engine blew on the way to work. The car was relatively new and the engine should not have blown. The mechanic asked when the last time the oil was changed. The oil was never changed. In fact, oil was never even added much less changed. So, we know why the engine blew, there was no change of oil.

If we do not respond to the Holy Spirit and change in big ways and little, our faith may well die. Our witness becomes ineffective and possibly even damaging. But if we respond to that nudging of the Spirit, if when we feel the Spirit, we stop and pray for the Spirit’s direction (what is God wanting me to do or be) and power (for the strength and courage to do what God is wanting me to be or do) then we can become what God created us to do and be. We can be witnesses to the change that God is making in the world today, for the power of Pentecost lives in us today as we respond to the Spirit to change the world, and us.