

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Day of Pentecost

May 23, 2021

*Ev'ry time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray.
Jordan River is chilly and cold, it chills the body, but not the soul;
There ain't but one train upon this track, it runs to heaven and right back.
Simone Santarsiero, soprano; Evelyn Munley, alto;
Craig Westbrook, Jr., tenor; Matthew Grotzinger, baritone*

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude See How Great A Flame Aspires *John Scriveyner*
Tune: Traditional Welsh Hymn Melody

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Welcome

Hymn Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us *Ebenezer*

Invitation to Confession and Prayer

Assurance of Pardon and Grace

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading Luke 18: 1-8 *NRSV*

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Children's Sermon

Musical Selection Every Time I Feel the Spirit *arr. William Dawson*

*Ev'ry time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray.
Upon the mountain my Lord spoke, out of His mouth came fire and smoke;
Looked all around me, it looked so fine, 'till I asked my Lord if all was mine.*

Scripture Reading Acts 2: 1-21 *NRSV*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

GOD'S WORD REVEALED

Sermon "The Promise and Gift of God" *Rev. Scott G. Loomer*