



"Before the Fire" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina gathers for
The Worship of God

Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023

"It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and it turns to radiance - for a moment or a year or the span of a life. And then it sinks back into itself again, and to look at it no one would know it had anything to do with fire, or light Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it? Theologians talk about a prevenient grace that precedes grace itself and allows us to accept it. I think there must also be a prevenient courage that allows us to be brave - that is, to acknowledge that there is more beauty than our eyes can bear, that precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm."

-Excerpt from *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Christ Candle Cora Carter

Opening the Bible

Prelude Baker Lawrimore

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Amelia Britt
By Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

God who moved over the deep in a holy breath,

Come to us this day - Pentecost. Arrive in the wind.

God who spoke in a bush that was burned but not consumed,

Come to us this day - Pentecost. Arrive in a holy flame.

Pour out your Holy Spirit. Set us aflame, but do not consume us. Fill us with holy nourishment.

We have arrived this day - Pentecost. We have come to worship!

†Hymn 5

"Come, Thou Almighty King" ITALIAN HYMN

†Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Rev. Buck Cochran

Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church and will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.

†Hymn 289

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" IN BABILONE

Prayers of God's People Rev. Courtney Willis

Gospel Lesson Rev. Chris Cherry

Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

†Hymn of Response 689

"The Church's One Foundation" AURELIA

Stewardship Prayer Levone Scott *deacon*

Choral Offertory Sanctuary Choir

"Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me" 13th Century Plainsong melody; arranged by K. Lee Scott

*Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, For Christ, my Savior, speak.*

*Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions brotherly, Speak Christ's sincerity.*

*Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;
Separate from sin, I would And cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be Give him who gave me thee.*

*Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee;
Against all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield.
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.*

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Choral Response Sanctuary Choir

"No Hands But Yours" text by St. Teresa of Avila, 16th Century; music by Jerome Williams

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours; No hands but yours;
No feet but yours; Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

†Postlude Baker Lawrimore

On this Pentecost Day, traditionally marked as the "birth" of the Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit, we invite you to celebrate with us on the lawn after worship.



First Baptist Church
Greensboro