

Announcements for May 31

Good morning, grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church on this Pentecost Sunday. I want to welcome those of you watching as a part of our virtual congregation this morning, as well as those of you finding us for the first time. Please feel free to check out our website at your leisure and head over to our Facebook and Instagram pages to learn more about how you can connect with us at this time.

MVPC's Response to COVID-19

This past week you should have received a letter detailing where we as a church currently find ourselves. As of right now, we remain committed to heeding the guidance of public health officials. As I wrote in the letter, we are guided by moral principles, and what this means is that we will move deliberately before making decisions about when a return to in-person worship will happen and what specifically that will look like. We will continue to monitor these events, the statements from experts, as well as listen to you, the congregation.

Looking Ahead

1. Beginning today, I will start to hold "office hours." These hours will be Sundays from 3pm – 5pm and Thursdays from 8am-10am. I can either meet you on your driveway with my lawn chair or I can meet you at the Columbarium or Courtyard on the MVPC campus. All I ask is that you e-mail or call me to schedule an appointment.
2. Starting this coming Tuesday, June 1st at 2pm, I will do a once a week phone devotional. We will read scripture, share concerns, and offer prayer. If you would like to join us for this, please do so by calling (701) 802-5094 and using access code 5154569.
3. Next Sunday, June 7, I will lead the Presbyterian 101 Sunday School Class which will meet each Sunday at 10am via Zoom. If you would like to join the class, please let us know as soon as possible so we can send you materials.
4. A little down the road, on June 21st, Father's Day, we will hold a second CAC Food Drive from 2-4pm on the church parking lot. In addition to the Food Drive, we are asking you to bring up your pets and we will do a drive-thru blessing of the animals. We look forward to seeing you then.

5. Finally, I want to know what you have been up to during your quarantine. Did you take up a new hobby, read a good book, solved a great mystery, or perhaps as I heard from one church member, did you plant a bunch of trees? Whatever you did, I want to know and so does your church family. So share with us your quarantine adventures!

Prayer Concerns

We remain in prayer for Helen Johnson who is in physical therapy recovering from a broken leg. We also are in prayer for former member Janella Brand, whose sister, Susan Sammons, died on May 7. We lift Janella and her husband, Lee, at this time. We are in prayer for Mary Helen Lutz, daughter of Bob and Ann Addison as she recovers from a heart operation. We also want to extend a prayer of praise for Mark Fiefield, who is now home from the hospital, as well as for Lorenzo Small, the father of Minnie Robinson who is regaining strength and health. If you have a prayer concern, please reach out to the church or Joy Carden, our elder for Congregational Care.

Your Generosity

We also want to continue to express our gratitude for your benevolence at this time. Your giving to the church is allowing us to continue to respond to this Pentecost challenge. If you would like to give to the church or to our COVID-19 Fund, please feel free to go to the giving tab on our website or send gifts via postal mail.

Now, let us shed our worldly worries, even for a brief moment, and turn our hearts to worship God...

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pentecost Sunday
May 31, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Opening Words

Carolina Kirby-Smith

Introit

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Vivien Rothwell

One: Praise be to God in all languages, this day. Let us surround ourselves in the Pentecost flame and say praise be to God! With our French brothers and sisters we say:

All: Dieu soit loué ! (Praise be to God!)

One: With our Cantonese brothers and sisters we say:

All: 讚美歸於上帝 ! (Praise be to God!)

One: With our Mandarin brothers and sisters we say:

All: 讚美歸於上帝 ! (Praise be to God!)

One: Thanks be to God! So with one voice we say in unison:

All: Let us worship God!

“Let Every Christian Pray”

Let every Christian pray,
this day and every day,
come, Holy Spirit, come!
Was not the church we love
commissioned from above?
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit brought to birth
the Church of Christ on earth
to seek and save the lost:
God never has withdrawn,
since that tremendous dawn,
the gifts at Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit's power
can fit us for this hour:
come, Holy Spirit, come!
Instruct, inspire, unite
and help us see the light:
come, Holy Spirit, come!

Prayer of Confession

Robby, Angie, and Hannah Hawthorne

O God of all nations and peoples, we praise your name. We rejoice in the many languages that proclaim your word and your wonderful deeds. We give thanks for the movement of your Spirit alive in your people, churches, and the world. God of wind and fire, we confess that sometimes we fear your Spirit. In those moments when the Spirit gushes, pushes, and challenges us toward the unknown, we would often rather cling to comfort and the familiar. Forgive our hesitations, God, and renew the ability in us to entrust our lives to you. Move us beyond boundaries of language and nationality into your endless and extravagant love. In this world so in need of forgiveness, peace, and healing, lead us to those who overcome fear, offer messages of hope, and practice your infinite graciousness. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Acts 2:1-21

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.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

The Pentecost Challenge

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me,
Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer Over the Elements/Prayers of Intercessions... Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer...

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

“I Want to Know You”

In the secret, in the quiet place
In the stillness You are there
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait only for You
Cause, I want to know You more

I want to know You
I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more
I want to touch You
I want to see Your face
I want to know You more

I am reaching for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize
Pressing onward, pushing every hindrance aside Out of my way
Cause, I want to know You more

Benediction