



Valley United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 23, 2021—9:00 a.m.

PENTECOST

Gathering Music

He Leadeth Me
David's Lyre
Sarabande

arr. Smith
Southbridge
Vivaldi

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We have heard about the storied fires of God:
fires that lead lost people in the wilderness at night,
and burn without consuming a green-leafed bush;
and come down from heaven on the wings of Elijah's prayer,
consuming the faint hearts of false prophets.

**On this day of Pentecost,
it is the spirits of ordinary people that catch fire with joy,
consuming the attitudes and customs that divide them,
creating goodwill between them.**

The Spirit that is Holy
appears in those who discover and delight
in each other, in God, and in all creation.

**May it again be so! May such flames dance in us,
may we be on fire with the possibility of sharing life in love,
and may we spread this fire on!**

Nancy Rockwell, in Tirabassi & Tirabassi, *Before the Amen* (2007), 98, adapted

*Opening Hymn *O Spirit of the Living God* (UMH 539), stanzas 1-3

1-O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

2-Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious common
weal.

3-Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;
till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

*Opening Prayer **Holy Spirit, rain down on this place.
Let our souls drink your goodness.
Let our hearts overflow.
Holy Spirit, rain down on this place!**

Ciona Rice, in *Worship & Song* Worship Resources (2011), 37

*Peace The peace of Christ is with you.
And also with you.

Time with Children

Gospel Reading Acts 2.1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** 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. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are

speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message Fire-Filled People

Time of Prayer

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

Time of Witness

Response *Spirit of the Living God* (UMH 393)

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.

Time of Offering

**Precious Lord,
we hunger for the light and strength
that only the Spirit can bring.
Feed us and strengthen us,
as we learn to feed others.
Fill us with the fire of your Spirit
as you search our hearts.
Take our lives
as proof of our faithfulness.
Take our gifts
as proof of our love.
Use them to your purpose
here on earth.**

Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, 112-13

Closing Song *Send Down the Fire* (Marty Haugen), stanzas 1, 3-4

Refrain:
Send down the fire of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit,
breathe life in your people,
and make us the people of God.
*And we shall be people of God. (after vs. 4 only)

1-Call us to be your compassion,
teach us the song of your love;
Give us hearts that sing,
give us deeds that ring,
make us ring with the song of your love. *Refrain*

3-Call us to answer oppression,
teach us the fire of your truth;
Give us righteous souls,
'til your justice rolls,
make us burn with the fire of your love. *Refrain*

4-Call us to witness your Kingdom,
give us the Presence of Christ.
May your holy light keep us shining bright,
ever shine with the Presence of Christ, *Refrain*

Benediction

Postlude *Echo Alleluia*

Purcell

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar: Week of May 23-30

Please contact the church office for Zoom links for events happening online.

TODAY, Sunday, May 23	9:00 a.m.	Worship-Pentecost Fellowship Time-Zoom
Tuesday, May 25	6:30 p.m.	CD/RSVP Team Meeting
Wednesday, May 26	4:00 p.m.	Prayer Group
Saturday, May 29	1:00 p.m.	Jaden Vega Graduation Party-Gazebo
Sunday, May 30	9:00 a.m.	Worship-Peace with Justice

50th Anniversary Celebration: As you may know, Valley UMC will celebrate our 50th birthday on September 19, and we're planning a 30-minute Talent Show after our lunch that Sunday. All are welcome to add to the fun with your talent! Come one, come all! Contact Joyce Templeman at 225-2846 or jtempo@mac.com for further details.

West Des Moines Human Services Need of the Month: SOAP AND DEODORANT. Feel free to drop items off at the lower doors (just ring the bell) and Emory Cleveland will deliver them to Human Services later this month.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS AT VALLEY UMC

We hope you will join us!

May 30	Memorial Day Peace with Justice Sunday
June 20	Father's Day