

St. John's United Church of Christ
May 23, 2021
Day of Pentecost

*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

Unison Welcome

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

Prelude

*Call to Worship

by Norman J. Goreham; included in Gifts in Open Hands

When the doors are tightly shut, can the peace of God be shared?

There the church may gather, but how its witness is impaired!

With the doors flung open wide, all its energy and strength

flow to those around, outside, held no longer at arms' length.

Welcome to this holy place! Come with others or alone.

Savour, here refreshing grace, here where peace from God is known.

Peace to all who enter here! Peace be with each passerby!

Peace dispelling anxious fear, peace from God, who hears each sigh!

May this building be a place where the peace of God is found!

Welcome, then, to sacred space! Welcome, then, to hallowed ground!

*Hymn #225

"On Pentecost They Gathered" (v. 1, 3 & 4)

*Prayer of the Day

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Gracious God, you come among your people as One who fashioned all things, who, face-to-face, revealed your knowledge of our lives, and whose presence brings assurance and hope. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love so that in hearing and seeing the gifts of this life, we may know the way to live in thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Illumination

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Holy Spirit, come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused the people, come to us now to fill our ears with the sound of your breath, fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other, fill our hearts with your good Word. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Sacrament of Baptism

(please follow along on the insert/screen)

Sadie Grace Boyer; parents Jim and Katie Boyer

Children's Sermon

Roxanne Davenport

Anthem "Spirit of God" arr. David York

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Our Savior (debts)

Musical Meditation

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

from the UCC Book of Worship

**We give thanks, Gracious God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Sending Hymn "God, We Love This Congregation" (words on screen)

*Invitation to Giving

*Commission & Benediction *from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

Jesus did not leave us without hope but sent the Holy Spirit to nurture faith and love in this world. Live this vision in all that you do: respond to rancor with kindness, be patient where there is pain, and let your dreams become reality. Peace be with you.

Postlude

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If you are ill, have a fever, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you remain at home.

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given by Margaret and Carol Rockwell in memory of Don Rockwell, friends and loved ones.

The Flowers on the Altar are given by Sadie Boyer's grandparents, Mark and Paula Boyer, in honor of her baptism.

Baptism of Sadie Grace Boyer

Welcome

Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Address

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and fellowship.

This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

We invite Jim and Katie Boyer to bring their daughter Sadie forward to be baptized, with their family and loved ones, in the presence of this community of faith.

Questions of the Parents

Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ? **We will, with the help of God.**

Will you teach this child that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

We will, with the help of God.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? **We do, with the help of God.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that they may affirm their baptism? **We do, with the help of God.**

Congregational Assent

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God, saying together the UCC Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology:

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the words into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all peoples from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us,
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death,
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world,
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Prayer of Baptism

Christ be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Act of Baptism

By what name will this child be called? **Sadie Grace Boyer.**

Sadie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Baptized

Presentation of the Child

Benediction

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Resources:

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“God, We Love This Congregation” Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824 (“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” Text © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

| Worship Participants: | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Pastor | Rev. Caroline E. Saxton |
| Deacon in Charge | Mike Herbert |
| Lector | Henry Hopper |
| Children’s Sermon | Roxanne Davenport |
| Hospitality Team | Herbert Family |
| Media Coordinators | Calvin Frantz, David Frantz, Ginny Cairns |