

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST



Sunday June 7, 2026 – 10:30 AM

Pentecost II – Morning Prayer

PRELUDE “Ach Gott Von Himmel” - Vetter

HYMN God is Here! (NCH 70 vs 1, 2 & 4)

1 God is here! As we your people,
meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit,
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

4 Sovereign God, of earth and heaven,
in an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's celebration,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

GREETING

The Grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be you
Also with you

CONFESSION

During the season of Pentecost we take inventory of our lives, as we confess our separation from God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

A period of silence for personal prayer and reflection will be observed.

Let us pray together;

Most merciful God, we confess before you and one another that we have fallen short of the wholeness you desire for us. We have betrayed your trust. We have

been less than you created us to be. We have failed to speak out against that which is evil. We have cooperated with systems of injustice. We have built our prosperity upon the lives of others who suffer. We know that you accept and forgive us. We know that you are always ready to heal us of our ignorance and lack of concern for others. Help us to open our hearts to your love, that in so doing we may love ourselves along with our neighbor, strive for justice for all people, and hold forth the vision of what is possible. This we pray as Jesus, our great teacher modeled and who chose life in choosing death. AMEN.

ABSOLUTION

The Officiant says to the People:

God freely offers forgiveness and calls us to turn and live in the joy of God's love. God has given power to all people to forgive one another and themselves. Therefore, know that God forgives us. Therefore let us forgive ourselves and accept others forgiveness and be free.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of grace, you invite the departed, you touch the unclean, you lift the head of those who are brought low: give us that hope against all hope for a world transformed by your healing touch; through Jesus our Christ, the mercy of God. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE APPOINTED for the DAY

Our first reading is from the Book of Genesis (12:1-9)

Yahweh said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people, and the home of your parents, and go to a place I will show you. I will make of you a great people. I will bless you and make your name so great that it will be used in blessings. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you. And all the people on the face of the earth will be blessed through you."

Abram, who was 75 years old when he left Haran, began the journey as Yahweh had instructed, and his nephew Lot went with them. Abram took Sarai his spouse, Lot, all their possessions, and all the dependents they acquired in Haran, and set out for Canaan.

When they arrived in Canaan, Abram and his family traveled through the land until they arrived at the sacred place at Shechem and came to the oak grove of Moreh. The Canaanites occupied the land at that time.

Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." Abram built an altar where Yahweh appeared to him. Then they moved off toward the hill country east of Bethel and set up camp, with Bethel toward the sea and Ai to the east. Abram built an altar to Yahweh and invoked the Name of Yahweh.

After that they traveled in stages toward the Negev.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Our Second reading by Stanley Fish, quoting Annie Dillard

“In her book *The Writing Life* (1989), Annie Dillard tells the story of a fellow writer who was asked by a student, “Do you think I could be a writer?” “Well,” the writer said, “do you like sentences?” The student is surprised by the question, but Dillard knows exactly what was meant. He was being told, she explains, that “if he likes sentences he could begin,” and she remembers a similar conversation with a painter friend. “I asked him how he came to be a painter. He said, ‘I like the smell of paint.’” The point, made implicitly (Dillard does not belabour it), is that you don’t begin with a grand conception, either of the great American novel or masterpiece that will hang in the Louvre. You begin with a feel for the nitty-gritty material of the medium, paint in one case, sentences in the other.”

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the people of God,

Thanks be to God

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 9:9-26

As Jesus walked on, he saw Matthew, a tax collector, at his post. Jesus approached and said, “Follow me,” and Matthew got up and followed.

Now it happened that, while Jesus was at table in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and notorious “sinners” came to join Jesus and the disciples at dinner. The Pharisees saw this and complained to the disciples, saying, “What reason can the Teacher have for eating with tax collectors and sinners?”

Overhearing the remark, Jesus said, “People who are in good health don’t need a doctor; sick people do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire compassion, not sacrifices.’ I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

The disciples of John the Baptizer came to Jesus and said, “Why is it that while we and the Pharisees fast, your disciples don’t?” Jesus replied, “How can the guests at a wedding feast mourn while they are still all together? The time will come when the guests will be left alone; then they will fast.

“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth onto an old cloak, because the patch will pull away from the cloak and the tear will get worse. Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins—if they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out, and the skins will be ruined. No, they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

As Jesus was speaking, a synagogue official came up, knelt down and said, “My daughter has just died. But if you come and lay hands on her, she will live.” Jesus got up and went with the official, and so did the disciples.

As they were going along, a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the hem of his cloak; she was saying to herself, “If only I can touch his cloak, I will

be healed.”

Jesus turned around and saw her. “Courage, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” That very moment the woman was healed.

When Jesus arrived at the house of the synagogue official, a noisy crowd had gathered, and the flute players who served as mourners had already arrived. When he saw them he said, “Get out! The child is not dead—only asleep.” They all laughed at him.

After the crowd had been put out, he entered and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. And the news spread throughout the countryside.

The Gospel of the Savior.

Praise to you, O Christ

HYMN Blest Be the Tie That Bands (NCH 393)

1 Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life
is like to that above.

2 Before our God we come
and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes,
Each other's burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
a sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part
it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

HOMILY

CREED

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today. And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

PRAYERS and PETITIONS of the PEOPLE

O God of our hearts, God of love, you are with us in every transition and change.
We recall your deep compassion, presence and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.
Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.
God of mercy, God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

During this season of Pentecost, let us hold close to our hearts all those in need, those who suffer, and those who mourn. In the prayers that follow, you are invited to respond with your own concerns and thanksgivings related to the particular focus of each petition

For those who are experiencing homelessness, unemployment, underemployment or loneliness, that we may lift each other's' burdens.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of mercy,

Receive our prayer.

For the health and regeneration of our living planet Earth, that we may accept our responsibility for its care and future.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of creation,

Receive our prayer.

For all who govern within our towns, states and nations that they will hear and heed the cry of all in need, and awaken to the call for peace.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of reconciliation,

Receive our prayer

For those who struggle to see you in their lives and relationships, that we may reflect your Divine love to them.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of tenderness,

Receive our prayer.

For all who are harmed because of their race or ethnicity, that we may work to dismantle systems of oppression.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of love,

Receive our prayer.

We now pray the concerns and thanksgivings of this parish family.

(You are invited to add additional concerns and thanksgivings.)

We know that you hear our prayers, O God. During this season of Pentecost, help us to

open ourselves to the needs of those around us, that by so doing, we may reveal the beauty of your beloved community. **Amen.**

Holy and gracious Creator: in your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen astray and became vulnerable to evil, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

Before Jesus's mortal death, he taught us, and we are bold to pray in whatever language or form that brings us closer to God,

**Our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ is with you.

Also, with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERATORY ANTHEM "Benedictus" - Andrea Klouse

Krista Donough, Rachel McDonough and Grant Mech, Vocalists, Chris Henke - Pian

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray together

Creator of this gathering beyond measure and price; we thank you for meeting us in our brokenness so that none might be lost: liberate us now to share our bread with neighbors and strangers, each receiving from the other what we need to be ourselves. AMEN.

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN When We Face an Unknown Future

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

When we face an unknown future that we can't imagine yet,
when the closeness we have treasured turns from blessing into threat —
As we miss our friends and loved ones, as we crave community,
may we look, God, in this season, for a whole new way to be.

May we cherish those around us as we never have before.

May we think much less of profit; may we learn what matters more.

May we hear our neighbors' suffering; may we see our neighbors' pain.

May we learn new ways of offering life and health and hope again.

God, when illness comes to threaten, and when so much here goes wrong,

may we know this thing for certain — that your love is sure and strong.
You're beside us in our suffering — and when times are surely tough,
we may face an unknown future, but it's filled, Lord, with your love.

DISMISSAL

Friends, how good and pleasant it is to be together, encouraging and consoling,
provoking and inspiring. But now the service is ended — and now the wider service
begins. Go in peace — **into the world, for the love of the world!**

POSTLUDE “Ein Feste Burg” - Gronau

ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

* **The Serendipity Stitchers** welcome you. 1st and 3rd **Tuesdays** at **1:30 p.m.** Our gatherings are always full of laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of good company. No experience necessary. Please get in touch with Veronica for more information.

* **The Book Group meets online at 7pm:**

June meeting - 6/29 **Theo of Golden** - Allen Levi

July meeting - 7/27 **There are Rivers in the Sky** - Elif Shafak

Please support your local bookshop and Redeemer by ordering from our online Bookshop. <https://bookshop.org/shop/Redeemer>

* **Earth Ministry & Environmental Sustainability**

We tend to think of Hawaii as only a destination for vacation, tourism, and consumerism. In this amazing interview with **Janice Ikeda**, we learn so much about the healing connection with the land and water, and culture and community. I invite you to meet our environmental shero, and learn from her ecological wisdom for **Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month** on <https://tinyurl.com/38w7rze4>
Contact Peg if you are interested. [pegonplanetearth\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pegonplanetearth(at)gmail.com)

* **Garden of Hope:** We have tomato plants in the ground growing! Thank you to Agnes, Anita, Barbara, Jim, and Candace who are coming to the garden work sessions. It looks good! It was a beautiful day to be outside Tuesday, and we got a lot done. Thank you!
Peg can be reached at [pegonplanetearth\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pegonplanetearth(at)gmail.com) or see her on Sundays. Thank you!

* **Mark Your Calendar!**

Sunday Worship Time Change

Beginning on Father's Day, **June 21**, and continuing through Labor Day, our summer worship schedule will be at **9:30 a.m.**

Join us in person or on Zoom as we gather for worship during these summer months!

Keep updated with all that is going on at Redeemer

Visit our website: <https://redeermorristown.org/> for further information and to sign up for our newsletter.

Please "like" and check out our Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/FBchurch> or follow us on Instagram - @RedeemerMorristown - <http://bit.ly/Instachurch>.

We are now on BlueSky -@redeermorristown.bsky.social , <https://bit.ly/RedeemerBSKY>



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Or (can you tell we want to make it easy for you?!), go to: <http://tinyurl.com/RedeemerDonateNow>

From Rev. Willie J. Smith



Recently, I was talking with a friend I consider a mentor. We were talking about security and somehow, we got into a discussion about home.

She asked me, "What is home?" My response was "a place that is secure". Home is memories on the wall, a space of gatherings, feelings of laughter and sadness.

There are people I know that refer to the church as home. Some have attended church since they were five years old. The space of memories. Home.

So many of us have the wonderful benefits of attending church, of the feeling of home that it gives, but what about the attachments that come with it?

To enjoy a sense of ever-renewing confidence in our life? To feel stable, grounded, less prone to emotional extremes?

When does church become a hideout, a haven from hardship, a sanctuary *from* life rather than *in* life?

We will hear in the Scriptures this Sunday about Abram and Sarai being told to leave with their possessions to travel to a new place. Both were in their seventies to begin a new life.

In the Gospel, we hear Jesus calling his hearers and us to leave what perceptions we have of ourselves and others to step more into life.

Are there answers? I am sure that Abram, Sarai, the disciples had a lot questions that they had to face in following God's call. The answer I believe is to leave our perceptions of church

- brave discomfort talk about our vision, meet new people and ask. It will be difficult for all of us.



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
CELEBRATING LOVE. DOING JUSTICE.