



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

May 28, 2023

Thoughts Before Worship — *What the Fire Gives: A Blessing for Pentecost Day*, Jan Richardson

You had thought that fire
only consumed,
only devoured,
only took for itself,
leaving merely ash
and memory
of something
you had believed,
if not permanent,
would be long enough,
enduring enough,
to be nearly
eternal.

So when you felt
the scorch on your lips,
the searing in your heart,
you could not
at first believe
that flame could be
so generous,
that when it came to you—
you, in your sackcloth
and sorrow—
it did not come
to consume,
to take still more
than everything.

What surprised you most
were not the syllables
that spilled from
your scalded,
astonished mouth—
though that was miracle
enough,
to have words
burn through
what had been numb,
to find your tongue
afame with a language
you did not know
you knew—

no, what came
as greatest gift
was to be so heard
in the place
of your deepest
silence,
to be so seen
within the blazing,
to be met
with such completeness
by what the fire gives.

Prelude

Aaron Ames

*Call to Worship

Bueno Dias

Good morning

Whether we say Ohayou gozai masu!

Or Bonjour!

Or Labas rytas or even Habari ya asubuhi

It all means good morning

¡Si, este es el día que hizo el Señor! ¡Me regocijaré y me alegraré en ello!

Yes, this is the day that Lord has made! I will rejoice and be glad in it!

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Note 1: *Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.*

Note 2: *The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD***

*Everyone is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

***Invocation**

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, hidden in an upper room in Jerusalem. A violent wind and tongues of fire were the symbols of a new thing happening in their lives. May your Holy Spirit burst into our lives today, encouraging and inspiring us to proclaim boldly the good news of Jesus Christ who offers healing and hope to all people. Amen.

***Hymn**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

NCH 286

Welcome, a Word About Worship, and an Invitation to Check-In

Introit

Alleluia

NCH 765
Congregation Sings

Call to Confession

When our lives remain hidden, when our hearts are shuttered, when our souls are filled with fear because of all we have done and said, God comes, breathing new life, blowing away our failings, restoring us to new hope. Please join me, as we pray together our prayer of confession,

Prayer for Confession

Let us pray:

We aren't ready, Lord. It is easier for us to hide in the upper rooms of our lives, to let the world go by and not acknowledge your presence. But you have challenged us to come alive again with your love and words of healing mercy.

Please take a few moments of silence for personal reflection.

Forgive us and pour your mercy into the closed rooms of our hearts. Breathe your peace upon us, that we might be healers of brokenness. Breathe your hope upon us, that we might open ourselves to the lonely. Breathe your love into us, that we might be as generous and welcoming as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Don't be afraid! God's Holy Spirit brings you healing, comfort, and hope. You are being prepared to serve God in some mighty ways.

Let us rejoice and remember that God's Holy Spirit is with us always.

***Passing of the Peace**

As we share signs of peace with one another, you are invited to either to stay in your pew and offer a wave or peace sign to those around you, or to move from your space and exchange signs of peace with one another. As a church, we recognize that some folks may want to refrain from shaking hands. Respect one another's lead in this as we pass the peace. Peace be with you!


Children's Moment

Solo

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Xiaoyi Zha

Call to Prayer

 Later in worship, we will offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary, or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here or there are prayer cards in the pew racks that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Prelude to Scripture

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:1-21

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

***Hymn**

God of Change and Glory

NCH 177

Message

Silent Meditation

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Prayer Response

Hear Our Prayer

NCH 769

Congregation Sings

Call to Offering

As God has so richly blessed us, in our gratitude let us return a portion of these blessings back to God. If you are able, please consider giving to the work and ministry of Community United Church of Christ. All offerings put into the globes will go to the Strengthen the Church Fund. Offerings placed in the offering plates will support the mission and ministry of this local church. You may give online by going to www.community-ucc.org and click "Donate." May God bless and multiply all we offer.

Amen!

Offertory

Strengthen the Church "On Holy Ground"

Video

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Commissioning of the Community

***Hymn**

Come, O Spirit, Dwell among us

NCH 267

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Part in Peace

NCH 78 v 1

Congregation Sings

Postlude

Aaron Ames

Please join us for a time of Fellowship in the Parlor following worship

Acknowledgements

Call to Invocation written by Nancy Townley

Call to Confession, Prayer for Confession, Assurance of Pardon adapted from

<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com> written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher and Presider: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Jennifer Cromley
Usher: Tom Ward, Susan Pawlicki
Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Xiaoyi Zha
Audio/Video: Lance Larkin, John Osborne, Roger Wade

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser leah@community-ucc.org	Director of Music Ministries: Kathy Lee music@community-ucc.org
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Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Johnalene Radek* Past Moderator: Erin Ewoldt* Incoming Moderator: Julie McClure* Clerk: Jeff Radek* Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan Personnel Committee: Stephen Kolderup Community Building: Peg Wade* - Care Team: Marilou Hinrichs - Prayer Shawls: Elena Kasper - Meal Train: Jennifer Robbenolt - Drivers Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs - Healing Music Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs - Card Ministry: Peg Wade - Visitor's Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs - Health and Wellness Team: Chelsey Byers Gerstenecker - Hospitality Team: Rocio (Ro) Arroyave-Jamison and Dennis Jamison	Children & Family: Brin Schuler* and Alison Anders Finance: Roger Wade* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary) Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Kristy Brownfield Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Shane Brownfield* and (Open) - Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward and Matthew Hart - Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola* Worship: (Open) and (Open) - Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade
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*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry:
www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry

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