

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Sunday, May 24, 2026**  
**Pentecost**

**ACCOLYTES (Bringing in the Light)**

At the beginning of worship, the acolytes carry the light of Christ into the sanctuary. This symbolizes Christ's presence among the gathered people — a reminder that we don't create the light ourselves; God brings it to us.

As the candles are lit, we remember Jesus' words, "*I am the light of the world.*" Worship begins in that light.

**PRELUDE**

Tommy Clay, Jr.

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Liturgist: Terry Albright**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Since God has forgiven us in Christ, Let us forgive one another.*

**May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!**

And also with you! (We greet each other in appropriate ways.)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Together we call our family to worship in this way:  
[From Ann Weems]

Leader: The Church is Pentecost.

**ALL: The Holy Spirit is poured out upon us and sends us out together, aflame with new life.**

Leader: We are liberated from the prisons of pettiness, jealousy, and greed.

**ALL: We are freed to free others.**

Leader: We are affirmed to affirm others.

**ALL: We are loved to love others.**

Leader: We are family

**ALL: We are community. We are the Church Triumphant.**

Leader: Joy is apparent in our living. We have been  
commissioned to be the Church of Jesus Christ!

**ALL: In great joy, together let us worship God!**

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

**ALL: God our creator, earth has many languages but  
your gospel proclaims your love to all nations in one  
heavenly tongue. Make us messengers of the good news  
that, through the power of your spirit all the world may  
unite in one song of praise; through your Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**HYMN**            “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”            Hymn #8

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bade the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word  
the winds and waves submissive heard,  
who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid its rage did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
upon the chaos wild and rude,  
and bade its angry tumult cease,  
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and power,  
all travelers guard in danger's hour;  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
thus evermore shall rise to thee  
glad praise from air and land and sea.

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

**All: Spirit of the Living God, we hesitate and doubt. You call us to act boldly, but fear keeps us quiet and circling. We confess our lack of courage, splintered by uncertainty and second-guessing. Embolden us to dream beyond what we know and imagine the world as beloved community. Let your Spirit fill us, prodding us beyond inertia.**

*Leader: And now in these moments of silence, those sins which are ours alone*

**All: Forgive us for all the times we shrink from your call. Grant that we might be Christ's body, not in fits and starts but with steady conviction. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us be active participants in ushering in your peaceable kingdom. Amen**

**GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" Hymn #581

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end, Amen."

**ANTHEM** "The King is Coming" Chancel Choir

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

***First Reading***

Joel 2:28-29 p.652, OT

***Second Reading***

Acts 2:15-17 p.91, NT

***Gospel Reading***

John 15:11-17 p.84, NT

***Additional Readings***

1 John 1:4 p.188, NT

Acts 2:1-8;11-13 p.90, NT

Joel 2:28-29 p.652, OT

<sup>28</sup> Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

Acts 2:15-17            p.91, NT

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

<sup>17</sup> '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.

John 15:11-17            p.84, NT

<sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

1 John 1:4                p.188, NT

<sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Acts 2:1-8;11-13        p.90, NT

**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.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "Great Expectations ? ?" Dr. Phylis Grayson

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and  
neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the  
Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing, to witness among  
all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord's Prayer)**

Hymnal p.35

**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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING/OFFERING MUSIC**

“Breath of God”

Tommy Clay, Jr.

**DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Hymn #606

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

**ALL: In Christ's name we thank you. Amen**

**HYMN**

“Though I May Speak”

Hymn #693

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

**ACCOLYTES (Taking the Light Out)**

At the end of the service, the acolytes take the flame back out of the sanctuary. This is not extinguishing Christ's presence — it is sending it.

The light that gathered us now goes ahead of us into the world, where we are called to carry Christ's love, justice, and compassion into our daily lives.

## **INTRODUCE THE CELTIC CROSS**

The Celtic Cross was designed by Dr. Grayson for the newly formed youth council to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbytery of South Carolina in 2003.

*Dr. Grayson invites you not only to look closely but to touch the sides of the cross and remember that you are touching wood that was on the river bank as Christ was crucified.*

## **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Hymn #288

“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.

## **POSTLUDE**

Tommy Clay, Jr.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Details on our website, Facebook, Realm & 386-385-3040.)**

**This week's prayer**: Gracious God, giver of every good gift, open the heavens and send the rain we need. In Jesus name we pray, amen

### **Church Activities**

**Small Groups**-Sunday 9:15 am; Tues. 3:00 pm; Wed. 4:30 pm.

**Presbyterian Women**-every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 10:30am & 6:30pm.

**Social Connections**-Thurs.1pm in Zoom Rm. Contact

**Quilting Group**-Friday's at 10:00 in the Zoom Room.

### **Outreach Ministries**

**Shower Ministry**-Thurs. from 2-6pm

**PC3 Ministry**-Monday 2-6pm

**Meridian/Grace Market Place**-Thurs. 2-4pm in the Bartram Rm a representative for assistance.

**CDC (Chemical Dependency Counseling)**-Mon. 8-12; Tues. 8-6, Wed. 8-6, Sat. 8-6.

**Church Calendar**

<b>5-22-24</b>	Blue Crab	9:00am	Parking
<b>5-26</b>	ARK/pets	9:00am	WH/Parking

**Financial Report**

2026 Financial Report/Operating Budget through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Total Received</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
\$73,129	\$69,747	\$3,382

**The Brick Opportunity** *Let's get those orders in to build a space rooted in legacy, community, and faith, one brick at a time. (#39)*

**For maximum profit all orders must be in by June 28th.**

For more details go to our website [fpcpalatka.com](http://fpcpalatka.com). **(profits through April \$2,868)**

