



PENTECOST XVII
09.20.2026
That First Step

Announcements

Community

- 20's and 30's – Sept 27 after church
- Parents of littles – play together, parents hang out – let us know if you want to be on the text chain

Service

- Sandwich night September 16 – thank you! – Next one October 7!

Spiritual Practices

- Morning prayer – Thursdays at 8am
- 9/27 – Sacred Spectrum project visitors
- 10/3 Pet Blessing – 10-12 at Patterson Park dog park
- Safe Harbor Giving – report next week

Greeting & Orientation – Amy Sens

“The best teachers have showed me that things have to be done bit by bit. Nothing that means anything happens quickly--we only think it does. The motion of drawing back a bow and sending an arrow straight into a target takes only a split second, but it is a skill many years in the making. So it is with a life, anyone's life. I may list things that might be described as my accomplishments in these few pages, but they are only shadows of the larger truth, fragments separated from the whole cycle of becoming. And if I can tell an old-time story now about a man who is walking about, waudjoset ndatlokugan, a forest lodge man, alesakamigwi udlagwedewugan, it is because I spent many years walking about myself, listening to voices that came not just from the people but from animals and trees and stones.”

— Joseph Bruchac

Song – Guide Me, My Great Redeemer – The Band

1 Guide me my great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak but you are mighty.
Hold me with your powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me 'til I want no more,
Feed me 'til I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
Where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Ever by my strength and shield,
Ever be my strength and shield.

3 When I reach the river Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on heaven's side.

Songs of praises songs, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Welcome - Warren/ Winny family

Children's Message - Rachel Cooley Shawler

God be in my head
God be in my words

God be in my heart
God be in my hands
God be in my whole self

Passing of the Peace

Reading One – For a New Beginning – John O'Donohue

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Psalm 33: God Loves Righteousness - The Band

Refrain:

God loves righteousness and justice,
God's lovingkindness fills the earth.
God loves righteousness and justice,
God's lovingkindness fills the earth.
God's lovingkindness fills the earth.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous;
it is good for the just to sing praises.
Praise the Lord with the harp;
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.

Sing for God a new song;
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.
For the word of the Lord is right,
and all her works are sure.

Refrain

God loves righteousness and justice;
the loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole earth.
By the word of the Lord were the heavens made,
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.

She gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin
and stores up the depths of the sea.
Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of her.

Refrain

For he spoke, and it came to pass;
he commanded, and it stood fast.
The Lord brings the will of the nations to naught;
he thwarts the designs of the peoples.

But the Lord's will stands fast for ever,
and the designs of her heart from age to age.
Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!
happy the people she has chosen to be her own!

Refrain

Prayers of the People – Jim Hamilton

Song – Place to Be – Nick Drake - The Band

When I was young, younger than before
I never saw the truth hanging from the door
And now I'm older, see it face to face
And now I'm older, gotta get up, clean the place

**And I was green, greener than the hill
Where flowers grew and the sun shone still
Now I'm darker than the deepest sea
Just hand me down, give me a place to be**

**And I was strong, strong in the sun
I thought I'd see when day was done
Now I'm weaker than the palest blue
Oh, so weak in this need for you**

Reading Two: Genesis 12:1-9 (CEB) – Amy Sens

The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you.”

Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I give this land to your descendants,” so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord’s name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

Reading Three: Matthew 28:19-20

[Jesus said to them,] “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

Song – Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - The Band

**Here I raise my ebenezer,
Hither to Thy Help I’m come,
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandr’ing from the fold of God.
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood.**

Celebration and Offering

Song – To Be What You Must – Yusuf Islam – The Band

I have journeyed, endless miles
Seen many others, where I took rest a while
On this boat called "near and far"
To be what you must, you must give up what you are

Only on a wind of hope my heart said
Braving mystic oceans to arrive
Those who do not leave and choose to stay
Many survive

Be you dust or be you star
To be what you must, just reach out for what you are
And though you travel many roads
There's but one way and that's the one you chose

Eucharist & Post Communion Prayer – James Hamilton

All are welcome at the Eucharistic table. If you do not wish to participate, feel free to take this time for meditation or personal reflection.

Prayer and Blessing – James Hamilton

Song – The Times They are A' Changin' – Bob Dylan - The Band

1 Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth savin'
Then you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

2 Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
And keep your eyes wide
The chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon
For the wheel's still in spin
And there's no tellin' who that it's namin'
For the loser now
Will be later to win
For the times they are a-changin'

3 Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall
For he that gets hurt
Will be he who has stalled
The battle outside ragin'
Will soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'

4 Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters

Are beyond your command
Your old road is rapidly agin'
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'

5 The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is rapidly fadin'
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'

Dismissal – Jim Hamilton
