

Absecon Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Absecon Presbyterian Church! Thank you for being here to participate this week in a worship service centered on love of God for you, and your opportunity to participate in God's work to reconcile all things through Jesus Christ. This service is not made to be just another show to watch, but a place to interact as a community and join our voices in prayer.



INTERACTIVE ONLINE WORSHIP DAY OF PENTACOST

Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

The service outlined in this bulletin is meant to be interactive. Please participate by reading all parts in *bold italic* and please feel free to comment, greet your fellow viewers, and type in prayer requests. Another way to participate is using the reactions on Facebook to be a part of the service. *Please stand as you are able.

Preparing Our Hearts to Receive the Word

PRELUDE

Rick DeKarski, Music Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Nancy Sooy

One: God declares: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.

All: Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

One: The young shall see visions.

All: The elders shall dream dreams.

One: Both men and women shall prophesy.

All: And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

OPENING PRAYER*

In Unison

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.

OPENING HYMN #333

"Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow"

The Feast of Pentecost

Pentecost celebrates the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples and the earliest Christians. Set 50 days after the Resurrection, it represents the commissioning of Church, by the giving of the Spirit to the ordinary believer to write God's law on their heart.

Pentecost is a Greek term that means 50 days. It is used also for the Jewish holy days of Sukkoth, or the Festival of Booths (Tabernacles) marking when the law was given to the Israelites shortly after escaping slavery in Egypt. Like at Passover, in Jesus's time, a pilgrimage festival was customary for Jews and all who worshiped the One God of Israel.

What is a Call to Worship?

The Call to Worship is an interactive use of scripture, intended to help us remember that every service is a time of worship. God calls us to be citizens in the Kingdom through the church. This part of our liturgy calls the gathered to join the worship.

What is Confession?

To confess is to tell the truth. In this part of the service, we are first called by the church to confess our sins. We then tell the truth about our sins, or our separation from God caused by what we have done or left undone, and what others have done or left undone. By our prayer of repentance we seek to turn away from sin and turn toward God's Kingdom. Since it is God who ultimately calls us to faith and worship, we trust that our re-

Accepting God's Grace and Forgiveness

penitance is always met with grace, a free gift of mercy.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is central to the faith of Christians. To forgive is not to say that an offense never occurred, but to tell someone they are guilty, and that you will show mercy.

To repent and be forgiven is not to convince God that we did nothing wrong, but to give up any attempt to lie to the One who cannot be deceived and accept our conviction with mercy that God promises up front.

What is a Prayer for Illumination?

This prayer asks the Holy Spirit to open our ears to the Word of God and drown out our own voices. In this prayer, we are submitting to God's will, not ours.

Why are we reading these?

At APC, the readings each week are typically drawn from the lectionary, which gives options for readings from the Old and New Testaments, including a selection from one of the gospels.

The suggested readings to draw from for today are from Year B:

- Acts 2:1-21
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Romans 8:22-27
- John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Affirmation of Faith

An Affirmation (or Confession) of Faith is a statement of what the Church believes. These bear central tenets of the faith and what is called the gospel, beginning with Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, through whom we receive an eternal life – salvation – because of His death on the cross and His glorious resurrection.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Let us call on the name of the One who invites us to speak the truth about ourselves and our relationships and promises to show us mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

In Unison

Holy and Merciful God, we do not know how to pray as we ought, and we know too well our constant failures to do as you have commanded and to hold fast to your word. Forgive us for the divisions we nurture, guide us to your way, keep us in your care, and lead us into faith. We trust your word that the Spirit of truth will show us all things and grant us courage and peace. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS*

Gloria Patri

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. Amen.

Receiving the Word Proclaimed

Response after each reading: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Sooy

NEW TESTAMENT: ACTS 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and

visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: “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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON “What Does This Mean?” Rev. Judy Fiocco

HYMN OF RESPONSE #326 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Responding to the Word

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH* Nicene Creed

Please find the Nicene Creed in the rack on the pew in front of you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- † For victims of gun violence and their families.
- † Peace in Ukraine, Middle East, Haiti, the Sudan and other countries experiencing conflicts.
- † Members of our armed services.
- † For confidence to know that in the struggle, God is with us.
- † For renewed commitment to God’s purpose in us all.
- † For us to come together in the bond of self-giving love.
- † For renewed energy in finding our place in God’s church, as people who pray, share and volunteer.
- † For wisdom and discernment when facing the unknown.
- † For God’s church to embrace the poor and marginalized, to see God’s image and be God’s image in this broken world.

A typical service at Absecon Presbyterian Church will include a Confession of Faith soon after the sermon. This allows the church body to follow up the specific preaching for the day with an added reminder of the big picture. This is the common faith of the Church as a whole, so while individual believers might struggle with their understanding of particular pieces of a Confession, the corporate expression reflects our unity and the faith passed down from Christ and the Apostles to us.

Prayers of the People

Each week the people of God at APC join in prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition to pray as one community for needs in the church.

Praying for others keeps our focus outward and opens us up to know the will of God in our own lives. Consider making these prayer lists part of your daily prayer life. Doing so, may just help your feelings of isolation. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit brings others, even strangers, closer to you.

Here is our standing list of friends and family to keep in prayer at all times, for chronic health conditions and long-standing concerns. If there is an acute issue, they will be moved to the acute need list.

- ✿ Rita Abelson
- ✿ Kathy Boyte
- ✿ Edith Budd
- ✿ Emilia Carboy
- ✿ Lucy Croneberger
- ✿ Darryl, Kristen, Quentin
- ✿ Olga Davies
- ✿ Carol DeLaurentis
- ✿ Marie C. & Carmen Devece
- ✿ Gail Driscoll
- ✿ Kavonna and Essence
- ✿ Dorie Keener

- ✚ Aiden and Wendy Licolli
- ✚ Marge Loeb
- ✚ Robin McBrearty
- ✚ JoAnne Morgan
- ✚ Essie Newell
- ✚ Rob Perry
- ✚ Joyce Pfeiffer
- ✚ Jan Rogiers
- ✚ Marilyn Rosado
- ✚ Irene Smith
- ✚ Georgina Umoren
- ✚ Mary Umoren and Family
- ✚ Ethel Washington
- ✚ Frances Weir
- ✚ Dirk Williamson
- ✚ Marilyn Rosado
- ✚ Irene Smith
- ✚ Georgina Umoren
- ✚ Mary Umoren and Family
- ✚ Ethel Washington
- ✚ Frances Weir
- ✚ Dirk Williamson

How can I give?

Please give your time by praying for your church and your community, and by checking in on your church family, including those you do not talk to regularly.

Please give your talent, by offering your skills when and where they are needed.

Please give from your treasure through your tithes and offerings in person or mail to:

Absecon Presbyterian Church
208 New Jersey Avenue
Absecon, NJ 08201

You can also give online at:

www.AbseconPresby.org/give

All gifts made online are safe and secure through the Presbyterian Foundation.

At this time, gifts to the General Fund and Benevolence are what is most needed.

- † For a revival in our faith to live boldly for God's Kingdom.
- † For these individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon.
- † For those on our standing prayer list and for the needs of your church not listed here, including those intentions held in our hearts and those shared in the comments of Facebook.

Diesel Barnes, Bonnie Bates, Vance Bauford, Kathy Bordanora, Billy Brown, Doug Campbell, Maddie Caracozzo, Louis Carr, Don Croneberger, Jackie Daddone, Robin Deaver, Billy Forwalt, Cathy Follansbee, Wendy Garwood, Linda Gormley, Christopher Green, Carol and Dave Guenther, Margareta Gustafasson, Jack and Dee Heil, John Harvey, Nelson Haws, Linda Hurlburt, Carol Crisafulli Johnson, Walt Koteles Sr., Susan Lobrano, Carol McDowell, Jim McManus, Lin Migone, Lisa Nagle, Milton Reed, Jr., Ginny Ricci, Chellee Roff, Nani Rosa, Dave and Judy Stebbins, Sandy Sylvester, Sharon Winter, James Zakrzewski.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

CALL TO OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Nancy Sooy

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Rick DeKarski

RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING*

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Nancy Sooy

Bringing the Word to the World

CLOSING HYMN* #134

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

Rev. Judy Fiocco

PEOPLES' RESPONSE* #334

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day, a band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray. A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air, and tongues of fire a glowing inspired each person there.

POSTLUDE

Rick DeKarski, Music Director



PRAYER

Please come to the front of the sanctuary immediately after the worship service if you would like someone to pray with you and for you. Pray-ers will be standing by!

Absecon Presbyterian Church

Session

Rita Abelson

Janet Gee

Karen Little

Gwen Monhollen

Jackie Rosen

Ann Wallace, Clerk

Jo-ann Weller

Deacons

Vic Abelson

John Carsons

Bob Hudak

Donna Hughes, Chair

Bill Keener

Betty Price

Trustees

Amos Bhagwandeem

Woody Duncan

Sandy Shinsato

Melvin Washington

Don Wong

Music Director

Rick DeKarski

Office Coordinator

Teresa Barone

Technology Specialist

Frank Nale

Christian Ed Coordinator

Tina Harvey

Treasurer

Diana Kwaitkowski

Custodian

Linda Adkisson

Pastor

Rev. Judy Fiocco

MORNING PRAYER FOR THE WEEK*

God of newness and delight, you greet your world again with light and life. I awaken to your presence behind, before, beneath, above, and within me. I thank you for another day and ask only that you keep me so firmly in your care that I can move gracefully through all I have to do. Guard my family, my friends, and all my brothers and sisters in faith. Let me be a peacemaker today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER FOR THE WEEK*

Good and Holy One, you have led me through this day of many encounters to the time when I may close my eyes and dream. I thank you for the people you have sent my way today, for the work I have had to do, for the food, shelter, and safety you have given. I pray that people everywhere may have all necessary comfort and nourishment and that I may lie down in peace, resting in the trust that you are watching over all creation. I pray this in the name of the One who made Earth, called the children to come, and blows through our days with wisdom. Amen.

**Prayers used/adapted from "Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion," © 2015, Westminster John Knox Press*

RECOMMENDED READING FOR THE WEEK

Read each day's passage in your home Bible or online. Each day at 6:30 a.m. the reading of the day and the morning and evening prayers will be posted at www.facebook.com/abseconpresby. Be sure to read the posts, comment with any questions you might have about the scriptures, then like and share too!

Monday: Acts 2:1-11

Tuesday: Acts 2:12-21

Wednesday: Psalm 104:34-34, 35b

Thursday: Romans 8:22-27

Friday: John 15:26-27

Saturday: John 16:4b-15

*Absecon Presbyterian Church
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www.AbseconPresby.org — www.Facebook.com/AbseconPresby

