

***No matter who you are***

***or where you are on life’s journey,***

***you are welcome here.***

31 May 2020 10:00am

***“Seasons of Life – Embracing the Day”***

***Pentecost***

**Welcome**

**Gathering Prayer-**

**As your Spirit sweeps into our hearts this day Holy One, we gather for our time to breathe in your breath and breathe out your love.**

*(Hold silence)*

**Last week with heart-felt quiet acts, we remembered and honored those who died while in active service. Today we honor those who have served our country in a different way. The courageous who have lost their lives serving on the front lines of hospitals and communities, we hold dear. We pray for their families and friends who are proud of them and ache as they miss them. For the sorrow of, in, and about the globe, O God, hear our utterances.**

**Forgive us when we choose who is worthy of our love and grace. Teach us, those in transition graduating from institutions and phases of isolation, God of love, to practice equitable and just living as we follow the footsteps of the living and loving Christ.**

**Incline your ear to us as we continue praying for our community of faith, our community, and beyond:**

**Gratitude for the love and care of this faith community; all graduates; Jay on the death of his father; Susan B., in hospital recovering from fall; Gilda, mother of Lou F.; Peter, son of Sally K, recovering from surgery; Patti S-R. and family on the death of her mother; Janice B. in Apple Rehab.; Sally G., mother of Jean; Carl F.; Cindy M.’s diagnosis of lung cancer; Lauren with a high-risk pregnancy; the mother of Alison L.; Mary-Lynn O.; parents who cannot visit their children and grandchildren; those awaiting diagnosis; Grace and all hospital chaplains; those suffering from the virus, those who are grieving; all those struggling with difficult diagnoses; family and friends of those who have completed suicide and those contemplating suicide; those living with chronic diseases, dementia and cancer, and their families; those living with domestic violence; families dealing with addictions; those who suffer; natural and human-made disasters;** **and for peace and health for all.**

Now we pray as Jesus taught saying . . .

**Our Father *(or Creator)*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom *(kin-dom)* come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom *(kin-dom)*, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**10:16 Moment** Judi Wallace

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory Music:**

**Doxology:** ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God, for all that love has done;***

***Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

*(You are welcome to sing your preferred version of the Doxology.)*

**Scripture:** Acts 2: 1 – 11

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.  Suddenly a noise like a rushing mighty wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and stood over each person there.  They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them. There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world.  When they heard this noise, a crowd came together. They were all surprised because each one heard them speaking in their own language.

They were completely amazed and marveled at this. They said, “Look! Aren’t all these people that we hear speaking from Galilee?

Then how is it possible that we each hear them in our own languages? We are from different places:   Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the areas of Libya near Cyrene, Rome  (both Jews and proselytes), Crete, and Arabia.

But we hear them telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!”

May the still speaking God grant us wisdom and understanding to this passage.

**Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Brasher-Cunningham

**Commission/Benediction**

**Postlude:**

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**Offerings:** Our ministries continue, albeit in different ways. We know that some are not in a position to give or keep up with their pledge at this time, and we hold you in prayer. We trust that those of us able to give more, will. If you are able to give, thank you.

**Passing the Peace and Fellowship Hour:** Share the peace of Christ and catch up with some First Church folks you have not seen in a while.

**Clergy Phone Hours: Please call** 203-453-5249 to speak with Ginger (ext. 204) Tues., 9-11am; or Jake (ext. 205) Wed., 2-4pm.

**Worship Sunday, June 7th , Children’s Sunday, at 10am the Church worship will be emailed.**

**Welcome to First Congregational Church!**

**We are thankful** that you are worshiping with us, and we hope that you have found inspiration and fellowship. If we can be of service to you, please contact one of us:

The Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, Lead Minister, [ginger@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:ginger@firstchurchguilford.org)

The Rev. Jake Miles Joseph, Minister of Faith Formation, [jake@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:jake@firstchurchguilford.org)

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Carlo Pappolla, Sunday & Special Event Sexton

Nancy Kelly, Director of Junior Choir

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens, Prison Ministry Coordinator, [sandra@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:sandra@firstchurchguilford.org)

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