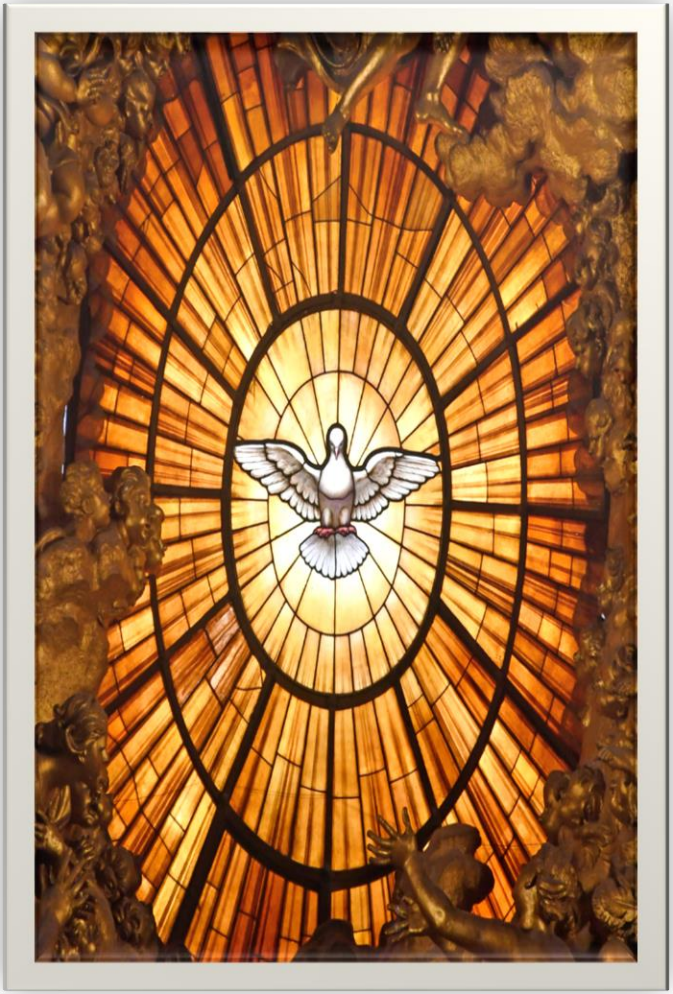


FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN LONGMEADOW
ORDER OF WORSHIP
May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday/AAWE Sunday

Those who are able, please stand.

Prelude: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Mark Hayes

Welcome Rev. Doug Bixby

Call to Worship
Leader: The Day of Pentecost is here!
People: God's children have gathered in this place.
Leader: Come, Spirit of peace,
People: Calm our trembling hearts.
Leader: Come, Holy Spirit of God!
People: Bring your mighty power into our lives
Leader: Come, Holy Spirit!
People: Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

Opening Prayer
Spirit God, blow into our lives through your Holy Spirit, move us to action through love, break down the walls that separate us. Fill us with the hope and promise of Pentecost as we worship today! We pray these things in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

(Those who want to participate in the Pentecost Procession are invited to make their way to the narthex in the back of the sanctuary. During the singing of the first Hymn, participants in the Pentecost Procession will come in waiving streamers that are symbolic of the coming of the Holy Spirit which was described like a violent wind and fire.)

Hymn: #282 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"
New Century Hymnal (Black) African American Spiritual.

Pentecost Procession

Scripture: Acts 2 "THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH"
Marilyn Paul-Lewis, Family Ministries Director

Children's Moment: A Message for All Ages

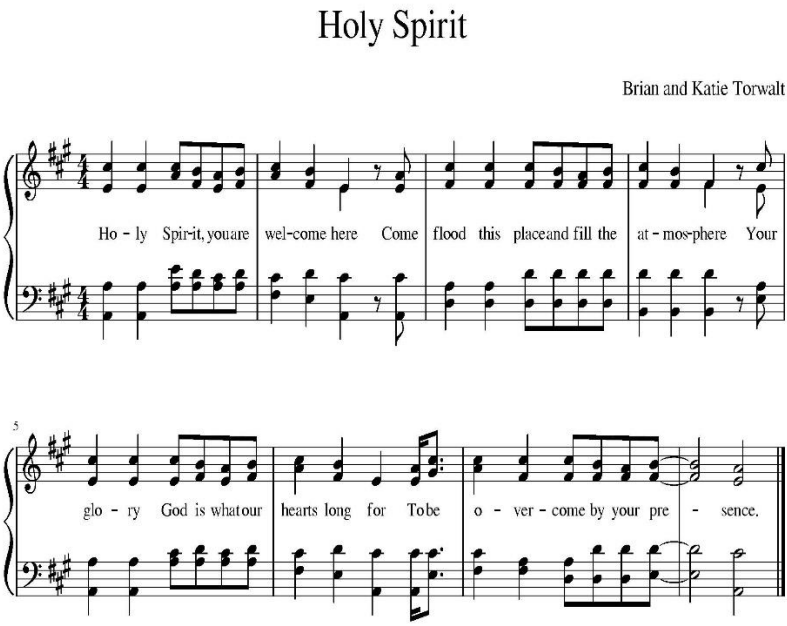
Sermon: "Amazed and Astonished" Rev. Doug Bixby

Anthem: - "Send Down the Fire" Arr. Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir

Joys, Concerns, and Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts)
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, forever and ever, Amen.

Prayer Response "Holy Spirit," by Brian and Kate Torwalt



Call to Offering

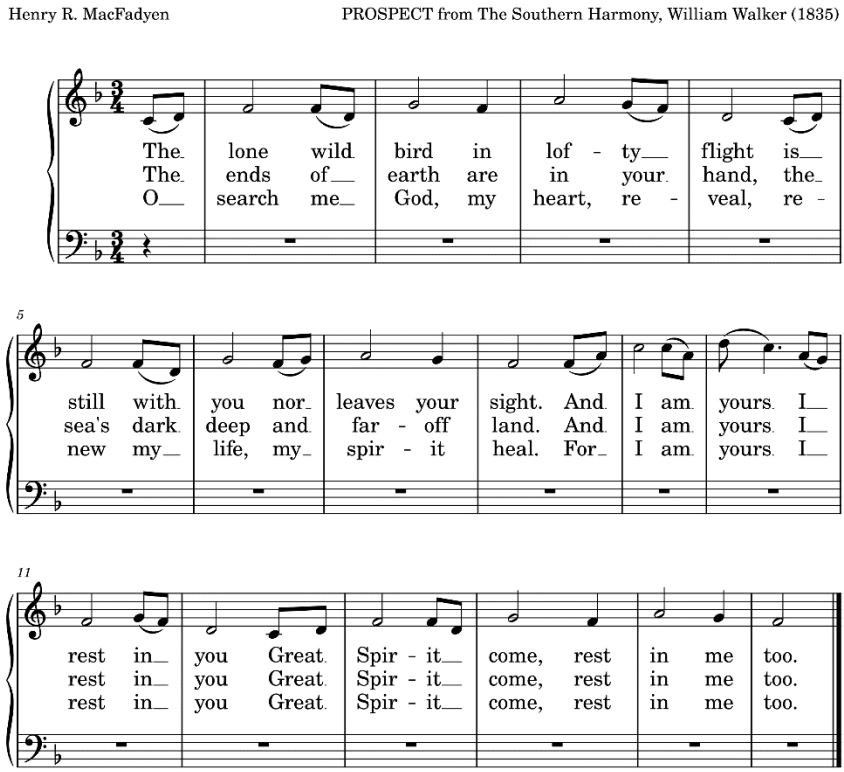
Offertory: "Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Arm" Mark Gotham
Mark Todd, tenor

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

Hymn: "The Lone Wild Bird" PROSPECT.



☙ Benediction

Postlude: Postlude on NATIONAL HYMN. Arr. Daniel Rose

Please Join us for lemonade in Baily Hall after the service. No coffee will be served today, as Stan is enjoying an extended holiday weekend. Thank you.

The Beautiful Flowers on the Altar are in loving Memory of Rosemary Rogers

The flowers were arranged by Mary Murphy

Please join Pastor Doug on
Wednesday, May 31, at 7:00 pm
in the Buxton Room or on Zoom:

Progressive Christianity 101

The Christian Church has been highjacked by fundamentalism in the United States and around the world. Too many people in our society associate Christianity with American Christian nationalism, white supremacy, sexism, antisemitism, and homophobia. People hear the word Christian and automatically think about the extreme far right in American politics.

They associate Christianity with things that most progressive Christians want nothing to do with. One way to distinguish ourselves from this type of Christianity without sacrificing our Christian identity is by calling ourselves "Progressive Christians." However, we also need to be clear about what we mean when we say this.

In this class we will explore the seven pillars of Progressive Christianity. The seven pillars are humility, inclusivity, responsibility, honesty, spirituality, diversity, and justice

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BROOKE CANADA

Bittersweet News

It's with a full and heavy heart that I announce I will be leaving First Church June 16th. I have been called to serve the national United Church of Christ (UCC) as a full time Social Media Specialist. I have been working for national UCC part time for the last year, and am now expanding my hours (and duties) with them.

This is an amazing opportunity for me, and I am thrilled to accept this position. However, it comes with the heaviness of missing this wonderful First Church family. I have appreciated my time and growth with all of you. You have challenged me and supported me in all of the best ways, which ultimately resulted in my pursuing a master's degree in digital marketing and data analytics. I am so very grateful for all of you.

I look forward to connecting with you over this next month before I go.

With love and blessings,
Brooke

Family Ministries Juggling Show!

During the Budget Forum on Sunday, June 4th, Family Ministries will be hosting Henry the Juggler in Bailey Hall. The show will begin at 11:30am (after a visit from the Batch Ice Cream truck). Henry has been performing for over 40 years, defying the laws of gravity juggling balls, clubs, and rings. He is also known to involve members of the audience in his act. Your children will be happily engaged by Henry while parents and caregivers attend the Budget Forum!

2nd Annual Springfield PRIDE Parade

EVERYONE is invited to show our pride!

On **Saturday, *June 3rd*** we will carpool from First Church at 8:30 am. We will gather with other groups on the campus of STCC and then march with our big church banner to City Hall. All are invited to join this fun event, including the youth of our church!
Let's show Springfield our church's true colors!

Please call Mary Friedman for questions, or if you would like to carpool: 413-244-2065

2023 Haiti Scholarship Fund

Our mission partners at the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti depend on us to give hope to their students. Bishop Francoise has sent a letter to our church in which she says, ***"An educated person is a tool for his society, his church, and his family."***

For decades First Church has helped College St. Andre in Port-au-Prince and other CONASPEH schools throughout Haiti with our donations. Although we cannot travel to Haiti at present, we need to let them know they are not forgotten.

Please send your donations to the church with checks made out to : "First Church of Christ, Longmeadow" with "Haiti" in the memo line. Or you can give through Paypal.

First Church of Christ in Longmeadow

Events Overview

Please view our updated website!

firstchurchlongmeadow.org

- Altar Flower Sponsorship. You can sponsor Altar Flowers on Sunday in memory of your loved one for a small donation. Please contact Carole Mazzarino at 567-5686 or email her camazz42@comcast.net.

Childcare During Worship!

Our Pre-K/Nursery teacher, Alex Zolotor, will be in the Pre-K room. Parents who wish to have child care during worship can bring their children upstairs when the Church School children are dismissed after the Children's Message. Children must be picked up by their caregivers after worship. Marilyn Paul Lewis is our Head of Family Ministries. marilyn@firstchurchlongmeadow.org

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Join our Music Programs!

Please consider joining the First Church Longmeadow Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, or both! All are welcome, whether you're returning, or this is your first time trying anything like this. Email Daniel Rose with questions or for more information: daniel@firstchurchlongmeadow.org

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The Prayer Shawl Ministry Meets

The fourth Monday of each month at 10am AND the second Monday of the month at 7 pm. Please join us! For more information, please contact Carole Mazzarino at camazz42@comcast.net

Please join us to knit and carry out God' mission of helping others. The Prayer Shawl Ministry knitters make prayer shawls for those who are on the path to healing or for loved ones who are in need of some extra comfort. We have already donated more than 800 shawls! All levels of knitters are welcome. Please bring your own supplies if you have them. This is a wonderful way to meet new people and to make a difference in the world. "Our Hands Are God's Hands"

Calling All Compassionate Cookers!

Have you been the recipient of meals cooked by someone who cares when going through a tough time?

The First Church Meal Train provides this comfort to all friends who need it. Participation is easy! Cookers receive an email when meals are needed and sign up to cook and deliver a meal as they are able. Prepared foods and delivery services work as well.
Email Karen Rafferty at mamaraff@comcast.net
to be added to the Meal Train notification app.

Recipients of your generosity will be so grateful!

Today's Worship Leaders:
Rev. Doug Bixby, Pastor
Pastor: Rev. Doug Bixby
Daniel Rose, Director of Music Ministries
Teddy, Call to Worship
Stan Zdonick, Technical Editor/Director
Rev. Doug Bixby, Children's Message
Mark Todd, Tenor
Chancel Choir

Church School Leaders:
Marilyn Paul Lewis – Family Ministries Director
Khaleigh Laicher – Youth Leader
Carolyn McGarr – Church School Teacher
Elaine Booke – Church School Teacher
Alexandra (Alex) Zolotor – Pre-K and Nursery Teacher

Mission Statement

Embraced by the love of God in Christ, our mission is to love and serve our world. We seek to grow in Christ's family through our journey – inward toward faith and knowledge, outward toward love and justice – always rooted and nurtured in worship.

We, the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, strive to live out our stated mission to seek love and justice in our world. We welcome persons of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation; mental, physical, emotional, economic and social status, and circumstances of life into the full participation and ministry of our church.

First Church of Christ in Longmeadow
763 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106
413-567-6287

www.firstchurchlongmeadow.org

282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8

African-American spiritual

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov-ing in my heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

Last time, end

1 Up - on the moun - tain my God spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.

2 Oh, Jor-dan riv - er, chil - ly and cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

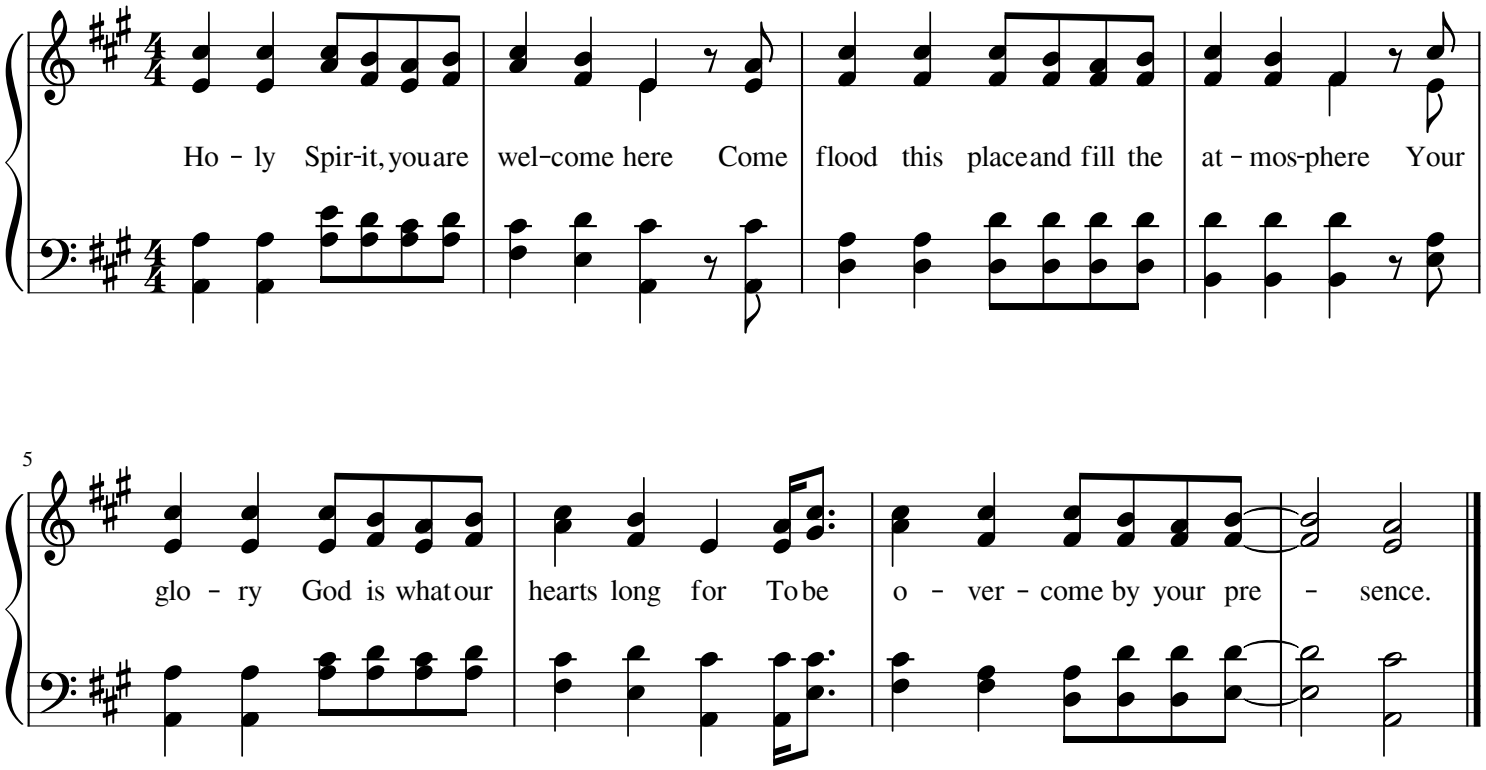
to Refrain

Among the thousands of spirituals that exist today are songs of gladness and songs of sorrow. This well-known spiritual is a song of joy, captured not only in the words, but in the lively rhythms.

Tune: African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Holy Spirit

Brian and Katie Torwalt



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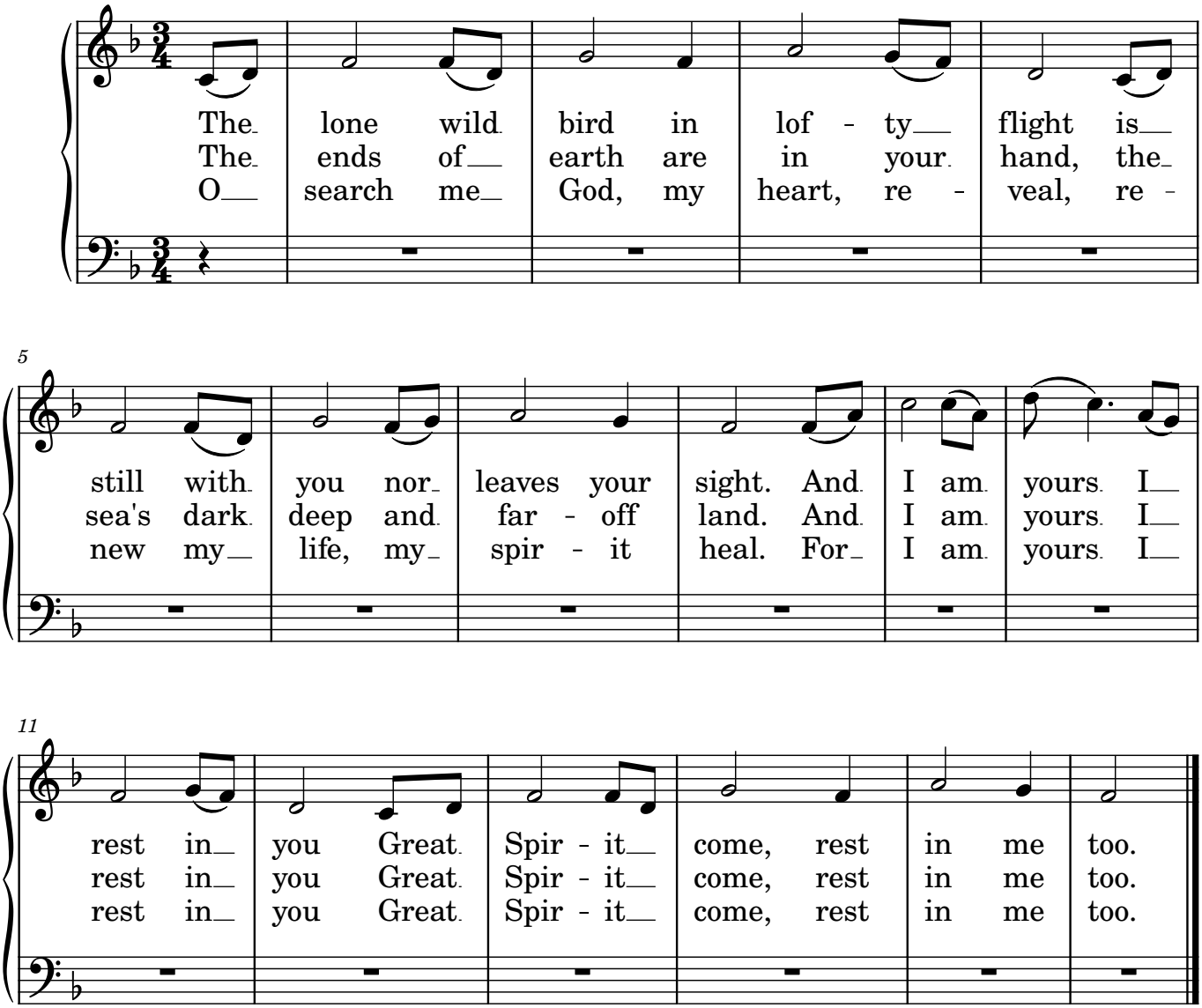

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