

Readings for May 28, 2023

United Church of Strafford In Person and Zoom Service

Responsive Reading *from Psalm 104*

Leader: Bless the Spirit of God, O my soul.
O Creator of all, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

People: **You make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.**

Leader: O Spirit of Creation, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

People: **They all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are filled with good things.**

Leader: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.

People: **When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

Leader: May your glory endure forever;
may you rejoice in your works!

People: **I will sing to you as long as I live;
I will sing praise to you while I have my being.
May my meditation be pleasing to you,
my Creator, in whom I rejoice.**

from Acts 2:1-17, 40-47

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

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these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that...each of us, in our own native language...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, "People 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...'

And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people...