



Riverside Congregational Church

May 23, 2021

8th Sunday of Easter

“Even on the cross He did not hide Himself from sight; rather, He made all creation witness to the presence of its Maker.” — St. Athanasius

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord walk with me;
In my trials, Lord walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.



I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.



Call to Worship

Leader: Here we gather for song and scripture, seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged.

People: Here we gather to retell the ancient tales and wonder how God's story continues to unfold.

Leader: Today we tell the story of Pentecost, the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples.

Call to Worship

People: And we ask ourselves where we see the Holy Spirit present our world today.

Leader: Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again.

We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story, and inspire others to see the Holy at work in the world.

People: And we will ask ourselves if we are ready to share our own stories.

Call to Worship

People: And we will ask ourselves if we are ready to share our own stories.

Leader: Friends, welcome. Welcome to this place with all questions, doubts, wonders, and find here an invitation to experience something ancient and something new. May we be open to the Spirit. May we be open to learning and learning from one another. May we grow in faith, hope, and love.

All: Amen.

Psalm 104 24-34

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!

Psalm 104 24-34

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,

creeping things innumerable are there,

living things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These 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.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
light

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near

When my life is almost gone

Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.



Precious Lord, Take My Hand

When the shadows appear, and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.



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,

Acts 2 1-21

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

Acts 2 1-21

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,

Acts 2 1-21

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.

Acts 2 1-21

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.'

John 15: 26-27; 16 4-15

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do

John 15: 26-27; 16 4-15

not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

John 15: 26-27; 16 4-15

He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.



Reflection

“Pentecost”



Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

This is My Song

This is my song, O God of all the nations
A song of peace for lands afar and mine
This is my home, the country where my heart is
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.



This is My Song

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine
O hear my song, O God of all the nations
A song of peace for their land and for mine.





Let us go forth as witnesses,
carrying the light of Jesus Christ.