East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus'name.



May 23, 2021 Pentecost Sunday

The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Jean Currier Bacas.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan wich@bellsouth.net

* OPENING HYMN

"Baptized in Water"

TFWS 2248

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 104)

- L: O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- P: These all look to you to give them their food in due season;
- L: When you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- P: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.
- L: May the glory of God endure forever.
- P: God looks on the earth and it trembles, touches the mountains and they smoke.
- L: I will sing to God as long as I live.
- P: Bless our God, O my soul. Praise Yahweh!

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Be fierce, O Holy God — the world needs you to be fierce and the world needs us to be fiercely convicted by your power and grace. We dare to say that we are ready to be changed by your Spirit; we are ready. Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:22-27 Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

SERMON

Pentecost – A Church is Born

Pastor Nancy Wichmann

* HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

#593 (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether or not they should be shared.

PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy 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 kin-dom, and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

SENDING

* HYMN "How Great Thou Art" #77 (insert)

- * BENEDICTION
- * BENEDICTION RESPONSE "This is the Feast of Victory" #638 (insert) vs. 3 Antiphon

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE "Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist" Johann Walther

*Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.

Romans 8:22-27

22 All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. 23 These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. 24 That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. 25 But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

26 Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. She does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. 27 She knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. (The Message, adapted)

Acts 2:1-21

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 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. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

14 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. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 '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. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of Yahweh's great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of God shall be saved.'

(New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

26 "When the Companion comes, whom I will send from God — the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from God — she will testify about me. 27 You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning. 4 "But I have said these things to you so that when the time comes, you will remember that I told you about them. I didn't say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Yet because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. 7 I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don't go away, the Companion won't come to you. But if I go, I will send her to you. 8 When she comes, she will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. 9 She will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don't believe in me. 10 She will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I'm going to God and you won't see me anymore. 11 She will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world's ruler stands condemned. 12 "I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. 13 However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, she will guide you in all truth. She won't speak on her own, but will say whatever she hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. 14 She will glorify me, because she will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. 15 Everything that God has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

(Common English Bible, adapted)

Church of Christ

Ministries of East Parish United Methodist Church

For the slain everywhere

Vicki Hall (for a kidney)

Gerry Bryant (Alana Gilbert's brother)

Ashley Fowler (Craig's brother)

Deb McAdams

Steve Smith

Candice Short

Joni McPhee

Ken Eaton

Julie Allred

Corey Amlin (BIL of Martha Murray)

Linda Murphy (friend of Samantha Stanton)

Victims of sexual abuse and assault

Victims of natural disasters

Division in The United Methodist Church

Deplorable treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers on the southern border of the US

For those whose voices are so often ignored

All who have suffered with, because of, or died from COVID-19

For our country, desperately in need of unity and humanity

United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders

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