

SEASON OF PENTECOST

Father's Day



The First Church in Belfast
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
June 19, 2022

10:00 am

WE ARE GATHERED IN

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE Music Director: Amy Kerksmar
RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul thirsts for the living God.
As an ancient redwood reaches for the sky,
so my soul reaches for the living God.
As the fragile monarch seeks its way back home,
so my soul seeks for the living God.
As we yearn for a world of peace,
so my soul yearns for the living God.
Thirsting, reaching, seeking, yearning,
we come to be touched by you, Living God.
Let us worship.

***OPENING HYMN** “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” #459

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATE Riley Woodbury

BIBLE PRESENTATION Leah Kerksmar

FATHER’S DAY MEDITATION

Shoulders poem by Naomi Shihab Nye
A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.
No car must splash him.
No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.
Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE.
His ear fills up with breathing.
He hears the hum of a boy's dream
deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
to live in this world
if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another.

The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.

HYMN “Where Charity and Love Prevail” #396

***GREETING OF PEACE**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (2x)
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 65:1-12

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 42

GOSPEL READING Luke 8:26-39

MESSAGE “*When We Turn God Away*” Rev. Joel Krueger

WE LIVE THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father and Mother 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. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE

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.

(Note: The First Church honors the diverse languages of faith. Please sing with words that are meaningful to you. Other versions of the Doxology are found in our hymnal, #776-781.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive these offerings from your people, O God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may we use them with wise minds and generous hearts. Increase our joy as we share all we have in the way of Christ. Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING HYMN** “God of Majesty”

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH Kate Winters for her father, 2010

God of majesty, Father of all, / God of mystery, all honor I bring thee.

You are near me whenever I call, / You reach out your hand to lift me.

In this moment all praises raise, / to the Source of our precious days.

Days of striving and days of loss, / days of laughter with joy unending,

You are present whatever the cost, / You have offered a love unbending.

Generous One, your gifts abound, / Blessed children on blessed ground.

In these times of challenge and tears, / As the world struggles with its turning,

I will quiet myself to hear, / All you offer my soul to be learning.

Grant me a vision of your design. / Guide my heart in your will divine.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE