

5th Ave. United Methodist Church
323 South 5th Ave. West Bend WI 53095
Sunday, July 11, 2021

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

He who has an ear,
let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches.



To him who overcomes,
I will grant to eat of the
tree of life which is in
the Paradise of God

Revelation 2:7

“Speak to my heart, Holy Spirit. Give me the words that will bring life.”

These words are from one of my favorite gospel songs by Donnie McClurkin. I have often relied on this song when writing sermons or needing to center myself in prayer. They are words that resonate with me especially now, as I cast my eyes to our new season of reappointment. I am feeling so many things...

As we launch and envision our fresh journey of service, I hear the words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,” I am feeling the

sorrow of 18 months where so many have lost their lives. As we have passed the anniversary since the pandemic began, and have had in-person worship, I am feeling grief for all that we have suffered. As we boldly and purposefully start our new church season, it beckons me to reflect and meditate on the cross, I am aware of all the many crosses we have had to bear this past year.

And I am praying, “Speak to my heart, Holy Spirit. Give me the words that will bring new life.”

May this be an invitation to you to pray these or similar words in the midst of whatever you are feeling or experiencing.

As a congregation, we will have opportunities to pray this prayer. In addition to our many opportunities for new leaders, we will initiate a new worship service, shore up our existing ministries, and bringing souls to Christ, we’ll also be starting Adult Sunday School, Book Study, and Bible Study. All of these will be opportunities to invite the Holy Spirit to speak.

If you are like me, feeling weary or grieving, I pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to your heart. I pray that you will wait and hope for the words of the Spirit to come. And that when those words of new life are given to you, you will be renewed.

Let us pray together. Your humble Pastor and Servant-leaders,

Pastor Clarissa and Bro. Martin

~GATHERING GOD’S PEOPLE~

Organ Prelude:

Greetings:

Pastor: Siblings of Christ, as we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship. We bring the burdens of the week. We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish. We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions. We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be. We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today. Come. All are welcome.

5th Ave. Junction—Where Faith & Family Come Together

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

Centering Music:

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

L: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

P: The One who calls us,

L: The One who equips us,

P: The One who loves us without end.

L: With joyful hearts, let us worship God. Children of God: welcome!

P: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

L: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

P: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

L: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

P: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

L: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

*Prayer (Unison)

Heavenly Father, it's so difficult to know Your will in these hectic days. Open our hearts to get a fresh revelation of Your Son, Jesus, we pray. Thank You for the spiritual instructions I have in Your Word and the warnings that help to keep me looking to Jesus. I pray that my devotion for You will not grow cold, but that in all things I will become more and more thrilled with the wonders of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. May my love for You start to reflect, in some small way, the love that You have shown to me. And thank You for the many privileges that are mine in Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.

*Hymn

“Spirit Song”

UMH 347

The Baptismal Covenant with Leighton Benjamin Eichhorst

Parents: Benjamin & Brittney Eichhorst; Big Sister, Milana

Maternal Parents: Al & Connie Ott

Paternal Grandparents: David & Nancy Eichhorst

Sponsors: Carissa Schultz; Ava Booth; Paul _____

~Insert~

*New Testament Reading Revelation 2:7 TPT (Unison)

The one whose heart is open let him listen carefully to what the Spirit is saying now to all the churches. To the one who overcomes I will give access to feast on the fruit of the Tree of Life that is found in the paradise of God.

Leader: This is the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

People: Praise to the glory of Christ.

Gospel Video “Speak to My Heart” Donnie McClurkin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCbS_6uWWUA

Sermon

“Speak to My Heart”

Pastor Clarissa

Holy Communion ~ “Holy Spirit Fill Our Hearts”

(Insert)

~THE PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

One: Lord in your mercy. **Many: Hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 SHARE OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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!

*OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)

God, our helper, you are our great joy! Your Holy Spirit enlightens the minds and hearts of your people. Thank you for always encouraging us to draw near to you in prayer and worship. In times of trouble or concern, we find hope and peace in your presence. Guide our congregation to share the warmth and good news of your love in ministries with people in our wider community. Receive these tithes and offerings in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

(Psalm 43)

* Hymn: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" UMH 334

*SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

Leader: As you go forth from this place, may the wind of the Spirit startle your senses and blow through your life; may the fire of the Spirit scorch your complacency and light your way. And may the blessing of the Holy One—Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—rest with you now and forever more.

Pastor: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Go out into the world, and labor to bring forth new life. Go out into God's world filled with the spark of the Holy Spirit. Dream dreams, pursue visions and speak of God's goodness in the words of those who would hear. Let love guide your actions. Listen for the Spirit of Truth. Spread the peace of Christ and remind everyone you meet that each one is a beloved child of God. And may the God who breathed life into creation be your delight. May Christ Jesus give hope to your dreaming, and may the Holy Spirit, your advocate and supporter, set your hearts ablaze with a passion for peace.

POSTLUDE:

The Baptismal Covenant with Leighton Benjamin Eichhorst

Born May 11, 2021; Baptized Sunday, July 11, 2021

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers in Christ: through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through Water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Lay Leader: I present Leighton Benjamin Eichhorst for baptism.

Pastor – Parents: Benjamin & Brittney Eichhorst & Big Sister Milana

Sponsors: Carissa Schultz; Ava Booth; Paul _____

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him in union with the church, which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? I do.

Will you nurture Leighton in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example that he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? I will.

Will you who sponsor Leighton support and encourage him in their Christian life? I will.

Lay Leader – Do you, 5th Ave. United Methodist Church, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Leighton now before you in your care?

All: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround him with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for Leighton, that he may be a true disciple who walk in the way that leads to life.

L: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

L: We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and nourishes the Church from the beginning of the world to the end.

All: The Church is holy; the Church is universal; it is the fellowship of God's children, called together from the whole of humanity to proclaim God's wonderful deeds

L: We believe that the reconciling work of Christ gives birth to a uniting Church, because Church unity is a gift from God and a goal we need to strive for.

All: The unity of the Church must become visible so that the people around us can see how separation and hatred are overcome in Christ.

L: We believe that genuine faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership in this Christian church.

All: We praise God that race, class, gender, or culture does not determine who belongs to this Church.

L: We believe that God has entrusted to the Church the message of reconciliation; and that the Church is called to proclaim and embody this reconciliation; to be peacemakers; and to believe and to witness that God conquers all powers of sin and death, of hate, bitterness, and enmity, through his life-giving Word and Spirit.

All: We praise God that the gospel does not separate people on the basis of race, gender, class, or culture, but is the power of reconciliation in Christ.

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of Water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in Christ's final victory.

Leighton Benjamin Eichhorst, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through Water and the Spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome our new Brother in Christ, Leighton Benjamin Eichhorst,

All: Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ. The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

UMH

"Star Child"

TFWS 2095

Communion ~ “Holy Spirit Fill Our Hearts”

Pastor: What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All: Alleluia.

Leader: God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

All: Alleluia.

Leader: And now we give you thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of your majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit. He is the one who has gone before us, who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the upper room while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbors in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Pastor: Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord: by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Merciful God, pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory. Amen.