

Pentecost

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

May 31, 2020

Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand. The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

Chimes Concert at 10:00 a.m. from Trinity Chapel's steeple

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

The Spirit descends like a dove,

bringing peace to unite the world as a just and caring community.

The Spirit moves like a breath,

filling our lives with new life.

The Spirit comes on the rush of a mighty wind,

sweeping us up to a place where we can see God's Creation in a new way.

The Spirit spreads like a fire!

Come to us, Spirit of the Living God.

*Opening Prayer

God of All Glory, as we gather in this sacred place, set aside for growing ever stronger in our service to you, prepare us to receive your power of transformation. Equip us with that which is needed on the unique journey that lays before each of us this week, so that those whom we meet will hear from us, and see in us, the wonder of your overflowing grace. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us*

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(see page 10)

*Call to Confession

By acknowledging our brokenness and presenting ourselves humbly before the Lord, we open ourselves to hearing the Good News of God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us join in this experience of trust in our God by sharing this prayer of confession:

*Prayer of Confession

God of wind and fire, we confess that sometimes we fear your Spirit. In those moments when the Spirit gushes, pushes, and challenges us toward

the unknown, we would often rather cling to comfort, to what is familiar. Forgive our hesitations, God, and renew our ability to entrust our lives to your care. Move us again beyond boundaries of language and nationality, into your endless compassion and extravagant love. In this world, so in need of forgiveness, peace, and healing, may we be among those who overcome fear, offer messages of hope, and practice your infinite graciousness. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Having confessed our sins, no one need leave this place of sanctuary carrying the barren freight of guilt or regret. Rather, rejoice that God's final word for each of us is simply this: I love you. Believe in your ability to grow and learn the way God believes in you, and you will find you are already free.

Amen.

Thought For the Day

The 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 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, for ever. Amen.

The Scriptures

Acts 2:1-21

John 20: 19-23

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Anthem *Fill-a Me Up, Lord!*

*- P. Choplin
ERUCC Singers*

***Closing Hymn** *Jesus, Sovereign, Savior*

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*Benediction

In the week ahead, feed the flame of Christ within your own heart; feed it with love of God and love of neighbor. And spread it, proclaim to someone, anyone, everyone, that 'Jesus is Lord!' and say it in a way that you have been gifted with. Spread the Word, unleash that Divine fire, and watch the Spirit change lives. Go in Peace.

Amen.

*Postlude



Worship Notes: Witnesses to Hope: Service Prayers for the 7th Sunday of Easter was written by the Rev. Renee C. Jackson, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ,



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgg5fmjnoi>

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Family of Dawn and Roger Williams (mother and father of Starr Schaeberle), Tamara Tamas, Dana Durr (cousin of Sue Pinner), Jaci Clayton, Raleigh Jenkins (brother of Donna Logee), Gail Ellam, Al Peden, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Tina Baker, Alyce Schmid (sister of Dennie Schmid), Lois Wilson (Dan Smith's aunt), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Faith Kline (friend of the Schaeberle family), Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), Larry Maples, Dustin Chapman (friend of Catie, Alex & Sean), Jane Doll, Susan McCauley (niece of Jack Stush), Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Terry Smiley (uncle of Scott Smiley), Shawn Smiley (cousin of Scott Smiley), Joe Jahoda (Kim Jahoda's dad), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczyszyn (brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

Al Peden
7509 Oakmont Drive
Frederick, MD 21702

Alyce Schmid
104 Charleston Lane
Frederick MD 21702

Schaeberle Family
2016 Chapel Ct
Frederick, MD 21702

We ask you to remember all of those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Your prayers and cards are welcomed and appreciated by those on our prayer list.



Pentecost Sunday is when we would have traditionally held Confirmation but due to COVID-19 and restrictions on in-person gatherings for worship, we have moved Confirmation to Sunday, August 2. We look forward to Jared Hueting, Emma Davis, Liam Cumber, and Sasha Hoffman confirming their baptisms and joining the church in August.

Worship Next Week: June 7 Trinity Sunday

[Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship next Sunday](#) at 10:30 a.m.

Genesis 1: 2:4a reminds us that in the beginning, God expressed delight in creation and declared it “very good.” In Matthew 28:16–20, Jesus bestows authority upon followers to carry the good news of God’s love to all places. The promise in verse 20 asserts that Jesus is the assurance that God will not abandon the community of creation.

On this Trinity Sunday, the readings invite us to explore and celebrate the many ways God is revealed in and through continuing relationships within this good creation. God entrusts remarkable potential to all that is created. New beginnings emerge as the community of creation lives into such promise.

SUMMER WORSHIP AT ERUCC: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Parking Lot

As the Governor has moved us to Phase 1 of plans for restricting gatherings, we *plan* to hold worship outdoors on the parking lot and patio behind the main church building each Wednesday at 6 pm. We will spread ourselves out and maintain the required and appropriate physical distancing. This decision may be changed if conditions change per the recommendations from the health department.

Pastor Daniel will be leading the service and Brenda Hedges will be providing music.

Look for more details as we move closer to July. Please note, this is only dependent on the Governor lifting restrictions.

Join Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/608416206> pw 522188

Each Monday we will send out a Bible study sheet. The passage will be one of the lessons from the previous Sunday's scripture readings. You are invited to use the material for your own personal reflection and, if you wish, join a Zoom call on Tuesdays at 11:00 am to discuss the passage with others.

If you wish to be added to this Bible Study mailing, please let Amy know: aaguilar@erucc.org

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Daniel for a check-in **each weekday at noon:**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/683955819> If you need to know how to set up Zoom, contact the office and we will attempt to walk you through the process. PW 551754

Youth are invited to join Pastor Daniel for a Zoom Call **every Wednesday** at 4:00 pm:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/405187542>

Consider continuing your support of ERUCC on-line. You can set up automatic giving via your bank, or use this handy link from our website: <https://erucc.org/give-your-money/>. Make sure if you are paying thru Paypal or online that you designate which account your giving is to applied to (i.e. weekly giving, building fund, other)

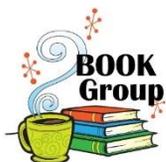
TUESDAYS WITH TED

Participants Can Join the Ted Talk by Zoom Call: <https://zoom.us/j/92398918264> pw: 313735

Tuesday, June 9 from 6-7 p.m. Mike Robbins, "The Power of Appreciation"

In this humorous and thought-provoking talk at TEDxBellevue, Mike talks about "The Power of Appreciation." As Mike discusses, there is an important distinction between "recognition" and "appreciation." Leaders, teams, organizations, and individuals who understand this distinction can have much more impact, meaning, and productivity in their lives and with the people around them. He also discusses important research in the field of positive psychology that exemplifies the importance of appreciation.

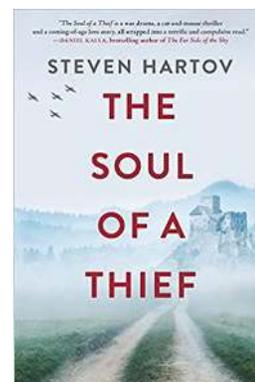
Mike Robbins is a former professional baseball player and author. His work focuses on appreciation, teamwork, leadership and emotional intelligence.



ERUCC BOOK GROUP 2020

*****Please note that the June meeting of the Book Group may meet via Zoom Call**

(The book group meets once a month at various members' homes. Depending on the time of year and the book read, this group usually includes 8-14 people.) Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. For more information about ERUCC's book club, write Pam Shepp at pam@vitalsources.org or call/text her at 301-524-5223.



June 23: *Soul of a Thief* by Steven Hartov

In the spring of 1944, I realized that I was not going to survive the war... Shtefan Brandt, adjutant to a colonel of the Waffen SS, has made it through the war so far in spite of his commander's habit of bringing his staff into combat, and a pair of secrets that are far more dangerous than the battlefield. Shtefan is a Mischling and one of the thousands of German citizens of Jewish descent who have avoided the death camps by concealing themselves in the ranks of the German army. And he is in love with Gabrielle Belmont, the colonel's French mistress. Either of those facts could soon mean his end, were Colonel Erich Himmel to notice. Colonel Himmel has other concerns, however. He can see the war's end on the horizon and recognizes that he is not on the winning side, no matter what the reports from Hitler's generals may say. So he has taken matters into his own hands, hatching a plot to escape Europe. To fund his new life, he plans to steal a fortune from the encroaching Allies. A fortune that Shtefan, in turn, plans to steal from him...

Ordination of Joseph Michael

Sunday June 14, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Rockville Christian Church, University Christian Church & The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Capital Area Invite your presence and prayers for the Ordination to Christian Ministry of Joseph Michael

View the stream on the following platforms:

- UCC YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRkWVrejZxF47LA69ArSttQ/featured>
- UCC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/uccmd/>
- UCC Webpage: <http://www.uccmd.org/>

Please RSVP to the Live Stream here: Ordination RSVP:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOmQi4VijPTJMnojKC0cUxPaK5kgovLKZUNxDUGOci5n0Y1A/viewform>

And check out the RSVP Page for information on a creative way to join in a virtual laying on of hands!

Join in a virtual laying on of hands

While we cannot be in the room with Joe during this event, we invite you to participate through a virtual laying on of hands. Follow the directions below for returning your prayers to Joe below. The people of God have long used creative ways to do God's work and to connect with one another. Elisha commanded Naaman to bathe in the river Jordan to be healed of leprosy. Jesus healed the Centurion's servant while working remote. The Syrophenician woman's great faith got her daughter healed from afar. Handkerchiefs and cloths were brought from the apostle Paul to heal the sick and suffering in Ephesus. So, in lieu of the laying on of hands, I'm asking clergy and elders to send prayer cloths by mail for my ordination. I'm requesting your prayers for God's grace, guidance, wisdom, power, and protection as I respond to God's call to ministry. If the Spirit of God is moving on your heart to participate then please follow these simple steps.

1. Write or type a prayer on an index card or piece of paper. Creativity is encouraged! Feel free to use one of the templates below to write your prayers or to participate however your heart leads you. ***When submitting your prayers please include your name on the index card or piece of paper.
2. Cut or select a small piece of cloth. This could be a piece cut from a retired garment, an old handkerchief, or anything you might have that's convenient. Ideally this would fit in a business envelope. Any shape or color is ok. If you are unable to acquire a cloth, prayers are still appreciated.
3. Lay hands on the cloth and pray for God's grace, guidance, wisdom, power, and protection.
4. Staple or paperclip the prayer and the cloth to the written prayer. ***Again don't forget to include your name on the index card or piece of paper.
5. Mail the prayer and the cloth to:

Joe Michael
c/o University Christian Church
6800 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Please mail in these prayers by June 8th. This will allow ample time for the cloths and prayer cards to be processed and incorporated in the ordination service. I plan to hold them in a basin while our Regional Minister offers the ordination prayer. I will also connect with your prayers at home following the service as we continue to pray for one another.

Mental Health Pandemic

By UCC's Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice: Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

There's good news and bad news. First the bad news. COVID-19 is infecting our brains. Even if you don't test positive for the virus, it's making us all, even the uninfected, mentally sick. It's safe to say the mental infection rate is nearly one hundred percent.

Our mental health depends on three primary areas: strong social networks to prevent social isolation, strong personal connection to fight off loneliness, and strong financial health to fight off stress from money worries. This virus has attacked every single one of these areas and in major ways. Who hasn't had their social networks, personal social connections and finances infected by this virus? Some of us are more negatively impacted than others—women, people of color, people living in poverty, and people with disabilities.

This mental health pandemic will last much longer than COVID-19. It will be with us for generations because of the trauma that is rewiring our brains as we speak and reshaping our DNA. Now is the time to put into place measures to help us recover from the mental health pandemic.

Now for the good news. We know what mental health requires of us. We know that strong social networks, personal social connections, and financial health promote mental wellness. Using this information, we can be proactive about treating this virus that infects our mental health.

Here are five key investments to make during a mental health pandemic:

1. Invest in your social networks. Being connected to peers who share our interests, hopes and dreams gives us a sense of belonging and affirms our sense of purpose. This can be a professional group, a recreational group, a recovery group or a religious group. We are wired to belong to others. Find your people and stay connected in safe and healthy ways.
2. Invest in your personal connections. We are dying alone and we are dying from loneliness. Friendships affirm our sense of self-worth and self-love. It's hard to love ourselves when we don't feel loved. A friend is someone who loves us. A friend is someone we love. This simple love can save us from despair.
3. Invest in financial wellbeing. Worrying about money is a huge stressor. Unemployment is at an all time high. We define our worth by how much money we make. That's a lie. We have value no matter what. Take time to create a new budget to follow during the pandemic. What are the bare essentials? What can you make do without? How can you save money and cut down on expenses? How can our communities with surplus finances help others so that everyone has enough? There is enough if we share.
4. Invest in caring for your body. Moving our bodies improves our mental health. Drinking water and eating healthy food is good for the brain. Our brains need sleep. Naps are good. Be mindful of how your body feels and treat it gently. Your body is a temple. Your body is holy.
5. Invest in caring for your mind. Cultivate positive emotions to balance out the negative ones. We are filled with sadness, anger, anxiety, and fear these days. Take breaks from the news cycle. Turn off electronic devices. We can reclaim our humanity by intentionally focusing on what brings us joy, contentment, pleasure and awe. The truth is we can acknowledge despair and joy at the same time. Our mental health suffers when we are consumed by despair. Be intentional about creating time and space every day for noticing what is good, even if it's only the goodness of our very breath, a ray of sunlight, or a single wildflower pushing up through the concrete. Be present in the moment and let go of what you cannot control.

Remember that you are not alone. You are loved. This pandemic will not win. We will overcome despair by coming together. Our love for ourselves and for each other is what will save us. We are saved one day at a time.

CONSISTORY ELECTS OFFICERS

At the May 17, 2020 meeting of the Consistory the following persons were elected to serve as officers:

President	Peter Brehm	Treasurer	Phil Selby
Vice-President	Marc Kline	Secretary	Jennie Russell

Giving Envelopes:

If you have switched over from weekly envelopes to online giving and would like to eliminate those paper envelopes for next year, please let Amy know: aaguilar@erucc.org or via phone at 301-662-2762.

Order for 2021 envelopes will be placed in early June.

Stay Connected and Get Informed!

There are many ways to receive information about what is happening at church each week. The weekly bulletin, the weekly informational email, and our monthly newsletter, The Trinity Chimes, Facebook, and Instagram. @eruccfred

Thursday Thoughts—A weekly emailed message that shares updates, highlights the upcoming service's scripture and focus, and includes announcements about Sunday School. To sign up to receive Thursday Thoughts, contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org and share your preferred email address.

Trinity Chimes—ERUCC's monthly newsletter. A more in-depth look on what's happening with the congregation. How we're reaching out, learning and volunteer opportunities, member and social program updates. Receive Trinity Chimes by email! Contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org to request to be added. (Paper copies also available upon request.)

PRAYER TO A GIVER BY KEVIN COYLE

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46 (NIV)

O Lord,

In a world of uncertainty, be with us.

In a world in need of healing, lead us to what can mend.

In a world judging, give us the empathy to kindly see.

In a world weighted and burdened, lift us with your grace.

In a world of struggles and trials, be our strength.

And in all we do, guide us by the gift of your love sent. Amen.

Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

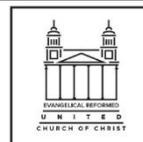
Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Amy Aguilar, Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

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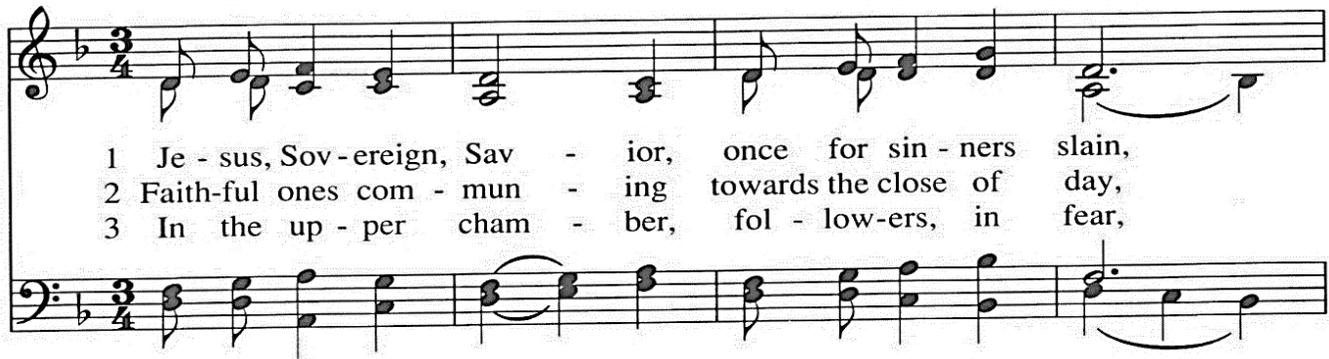
1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us, come with Pen - te -
 2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the grace of
 3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us words of

cos - tal power; give the church a strong - er vi - sion,
 for - mer years; for to - mor - row's un - known path - way,
 fire and flame. Help our strug - gling voic - es praise you,

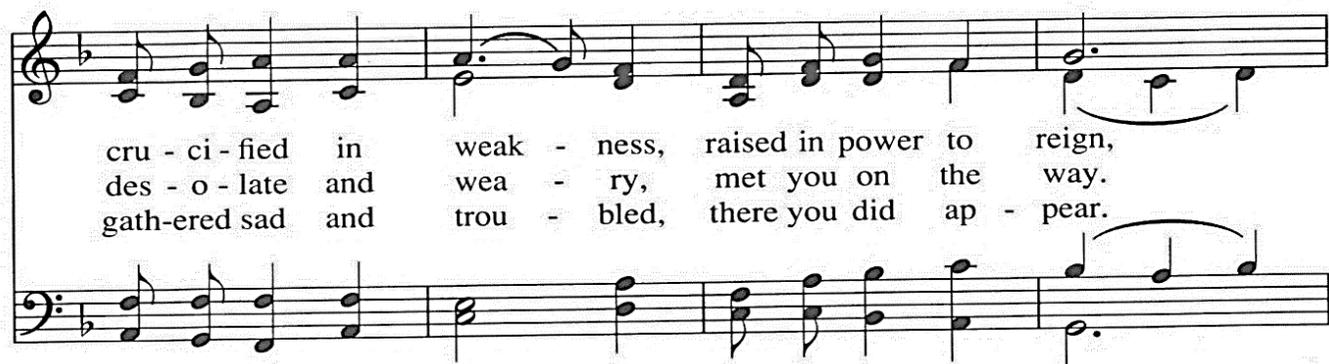
help us face each cru - cial hour. Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion,
 hear, O God, our hum - ble prayers. In the church's pil - grim jour - ney
 glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name. Good Cre - a - tor, Sav - ior, Spir - it,

Je - sus Christ, the Cor - ner - stone, still the church is
 you have led us all the way, still in pres - ence
 Three in One: what mys - ter - y! We would sing our

called to mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.
 move be - fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.
 loud ho - san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.



1 Je - sus, Sov - ereign, Sav - ior, once for sin - ners slain,
2 Faith - ful ones com - mun - ing towards the close of day,
3 In the up - per cham - ber, fol - low - ers, in fear,



cru - ci - fied in weak - ness, raised in power to reign,
des - o - late and wea - ry, met you on the way.
gath - ered sad and trou - bled, there you did ap - pear.



Dwell - ing now im - mor - tal, end - less in your days,
So, when sun is set - ting, come to us and show
Christ, be pres - ent with us, bid our sor - rows cease;



un - to you be glo - ry, hon - or, bless - ing, praise.
your truth, and with - in us make our hearts to glow.
breath - ing on us, Sav - ior, say, "I give you peace."

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 2020

Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost Sunday **Strengthen the Church Offering**

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4*

You might have heard someone joke, “King James English was good enough for Jesus and it’s good enough for me.” Today we tell the story about the first day this small ragtag group of followers of Jesus became a church, the church we still are today.

It’s our story. Do you notice that this is not a story about everyone suddenly speaking the same language? It’s a story about everyone speaking, all of them, all at once, the languages of each other. This is not a story about understanding each other. It’s a story about understanding that each of us speak to God in our own way, and God speaks to us each in our own way.

You might have had such a Pentecost moment. It happens whenever you sit down to a meal with a youngster whose music you don’t understand, but who you love just the same. It happens when you sit with a loved one, whose words have been lost to disease, but you love just the same. It happens when you pay attention to the voices of “the other side” in a political debate.

These are scary times. And in scary times, it’s tempting to circle the wagons, protect ourselves, all try to do the same thing at the same time in the same way. But maybe the story of Pentecost, which is both the past of the church and the future of the church, rests in listening, just to listen, not to understand. Maybe we are not meant to understand one another, really. Maybe we are here to walk together in the same direction, knowing that God is still speaking in God’s inviting, loving, challenging language to each of us, in the words that each of us, individually, can understand.

That we don’t all speak the same language doesn’t make us less of a community, it makes us more of one. Whether you came to this place today speaking the language of health or of illness, the language of joy or of sorrow, the language of despair or hope, the language of raking the grass or giving out warm hugs, let your prayer this Pentecost day be that your community be a place where all those languages are spoken and all are heard, even if all are not understood by all.

*Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®.