

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church
May 24, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Pentecost Sunday

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude "Come, Holy Spirit, Like the Wind" by John Carter
(Come, Holy Spirit, like the wind, like the wind; Come, Holy Spirit, like the wind. Blow, Holy Spirit, on the waters of my soul. Come, Holy Spirit, like the wind. Come, Holy Spirit, like a flame, like a flame; Come, Holy Spirit, like a flame, like a flame. Burn, Holy Spirit, in the darkness of my heart. Come, Holy Spirit, like a flame.)

(A time of silence to prepare our hearts to worship; please silence your cell phone)

Word for 2026: **Practice.**

People: *May we practice becoming.*

Salutation

Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Call to Worship

The waiting is over.

The Spirit has come.

The fire has fallen.

The room has shifted.

**We did not gather this morning
for routine,
performance,
or empty religion.**

We gathered because God still moves.

God still speaks.

God still fills ordinary people with holy power.

So come with expectation.

Come with hunger.

Come ready to be transformed.

For where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

Come, let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn (#574 Blue Book)

Revive Us Again

Call to Confession

Pentecost is not the celebration of a moment long ago. It is the reminder that God refuses to leave the church powerless. The same Spirit that entered the room in Acts is still moving now. Still disrupting. Still healing. Still sending. Still calling people beyond fear and into witness. The fire fell then. And the Spirit is still falling now. But before we can be filled, we must be honest about what we have allowed to empty us. So let us bring before God everything that has kept us fearful, distracted, divided, and spiritually asleep. Let us confess together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, We confess that we have often preferred comfort over courage. We have settled for performance instead of transformation. We have spoken about justice without practicing it. Spoken about love without embodying it. Spoken about faith without fully trusting You. Too often we have silenced the Spirit to protect our own control. Forgive us for shrinking the Gospel into something safe and manageable. Forgive us for resisting the very fire meant to refine us. Burn away what is false. Awaken what has gone dormant. Fill us again with holy power and holy purpose. Teach us not merely to admire Pentecost, but to live Spirit-filled lives. In the name of Christ, Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: God does not abandon the church to fear. The Spirit still comes. Still fills. Still restores. Still empowers. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and made alive again. The fire of God is not punishment for God's people—it is presence.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation (#155 Blue Book)

Spirit of the Living God (sing twice)

**Please remain seated*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-14

The Word of God, for the People of God!
Thanks be to God!

The Sound Changed Everything

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory "You Raise Me Up" by Lovland and Grahman, Solo, Nancy Tanis

*Doxology Tune (Old Hundreth)

*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith (Insert/Projection)

Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Hymn (#528 Blue Book)

God of Grace and God of Glory

*Benediction

Postlude "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" by Omer Westendorf, tune: Ash Grove

(With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children, the whole human race. With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.)

Our Invitation

Welcome to United Reformed Church! As we join together in prayer, song, and praise to God, we pray that the blessings and fellowship you find here will enrich your life. *If you are physically able, an asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand.* Bold text signifies opportunities for the congregation to read and respond responsively.

Pastor Office Hours: Wednesday 5-7 PM; Sunday 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Church Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs 9AM-2PM; Wed 3-7 PM

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lillian Hines pastorlillianhines@gmail.com

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PENTECOST SUNDAY
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
352 CLIFTON AVENUE

THE SOUND CHANGED EVERYTHING

Acts 2:1-14

The room shifted when the Spirit came.