

MAY 2023 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of May 2023.

Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

SEEKING OTHERS' APPROVAL

How can I learn to value God's opinion more than any other?

Answering the question: I want my life to be pleasing to God. But I'm so afraid of disappointing people that I care more about making them happy. How can I stop seeking the approval of others?

If you're a believer in Jesus Christ, then your life represents a radical departure from our culture—which creates tension between what people expect from you and what God expects. You can feel this conflict in your job, relationships, and even in church with other believers. But being overly concerned with what others think of us is dangerous—it can compromise our communion with the Lord and, as a result, stunt our growth in Him. How can we handle these expectations?

People continually change their minds—somebody may like you today and won't like you tomorrow. In most relationships, individuals eventually part company, and then what? You've spent valuable time trying to please them in ways they probably won't even remember. Then you're left on a path set by their values rather than God's. We're not under any obligation to please everybody. Instead, our goal is to be obedient to the Lord and to please and honor Him.

Think about people in the Bible who served God. Noah, Abraham, Joshua, Esther, Mary, Peter—they all did some unorthodox things, which certainly did not win others' approval. Their obedience came at a cost, but they became crucial influences in God's kingdom. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it," (NIV) and they did just that.

So how can we follow in the footsteps of these biblical women and men, and let go of others' expectations? By reminding ourselves of God's attitude towards us. Psalm 25:4-5 says, "Make me know Your ways, Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation." We need to read the Word of God and soak up what He thinks about us. God loves you; He died for you; He cares for you; He supplies your needs; He undergirds you. God is your friend.

People will continually change, but the Lord never does. You can't always make others happy, but God loves you just the way you are. Remember, you're a child of God. You have His approval—sufficient approval—for all of your life.

Trust Him. Obey Him. Live fully in the freedom His love makes possible.

May Worship

Worship May 7

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Acts 7:55-60; Ps 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Call To Worship

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge. Let me never be put to shame. Deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me. Come quickly to my rescue. Be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, Lead and guide me, for the sake of your name. Let your face shine upon your servant. Save me in your unfailing love!

Prayer of Confession

O God of all creation, become for us once again the solid foundation upon which we build our daily lives. We gather before you, this first day of the week, to align our lives to the strong teaching and life of Jesus Christ. Forgive us when our Sin and our busy-ness misaligns us with you. Forgive us when we tear one another down instead of building one another up. We come to you, O Lord, as people who desire to learn and serve like Christ. We are ready, as living stones, to be shaped and placed, to build Your spiritual house of prayer and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious Lord, we believe in the amazing gift of your son. We thank you and we share this offering with the unceasing prayer that your work in this world will spring up and break forth in all corners of this global community. Use us, Your royal priests, as we live and build Your Church together with you, through the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ. For we pray it in His name, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

Worship May 14 - Mother's Day

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Acts 17:22-31; Ps 66:8-20; 1 Pet 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Call To Worship

Transforming God, you have taken the world's darkness and re-created a world filled with the joy of light and hope. Come and hear the good news of God's love for all creation. Restoring God, you have turned defeat into sudden victory, and re-created a world filled with the joy of peace and shalom. Come and hear the good news of God's awesome powers. Renewing God, we respond to your mighty deeds with songs of praise, worship and thankful prayers. You alone are God! Come and hear the good news of God's blessings on us all. Glory and honor, power and dominion belong to God alone.

Prayer of Confession

Loving and merciful Lord, we thank you for the community in which you have placed us, for the brothers and sisters with whom we walk this pilgrim journey. Yet, we confess that we fail to love as you love. We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your Kingdom. We fail to see your Kingdom in parables because we fail to see your Kingdom in each other. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither East nor West, neither South nor North. We pray for the sake of your Kingdom that both is and is not yet.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of unimaginable love, you have cared for us since before we were even babes in our mother's arms. We have been told the stories of your love, and we have sung songs about your love. You remind us that you have offered a relationship to us, where love is at the center. Help us to remember that as we give, we give from a place of deep abiding love. Bless these gifts as we keep your commandments of offering ourselves in love and service to spread your presence into the hearts and lives of others. Through Christ who lives in and through us we pray. Amen.

May Worship

Worship May 21- Ascension Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Acts 1:6-14; Ps 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Pet 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Call To Worship

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

Prayer of Confession

Loving and merciful Lord, we thank you for the community in which you have placed us, for the brothers and sisters Ascended Lord, in you we see awesome power. You triumph over death and bring forth new life. You stand over all powers of heaven and of earth. You are the head of the church. Yet, we often fail to acknowledge Your power in our lives. Forgive us when we try to bend your power to our Will and desires. Forgive our hesitance to call upon you. Forgive our tendency to rely upon ourselves. Forgive our reluctance to acknowledge your authority. Speak your words of power again. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Almighty, you are the supreme ruler of the Earth! You can make nations bow down to your will. You shine your luminescent light on the righteous and spread gladness of heart to those who are good. You have the omnipotent power to move majestic mountains and to calm the stormy seas. You rescue us from wickedness when we praise and worship your works. We acknowledge the strength of your spirit in our lives by giving these tithes and offerings. May you enrich these gifts with your blessing. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Worship May 28 - Pentecost

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Call To Worship

Come, Holy Spirit, The wind of God, the breath of Life. Come, Holy Spirit, Our Advocate, our Counselor. Come, Holy Spirit, Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ. Come, Holy Spirit, Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace. Come, Holy Spirit. May we sense God breathing through our worship and our lives!

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Merciful God, on the day of Pentecost, you poured out your Spirit upon Your disciples and they proclaimed your Good News in many languages. Your Church was given birth by the Holy Spirit and many were saved. Today, we find ourselves speaking the same language of those around us, yet we have refused to proclaim your Good News. Instead, we speak the language of culture, of refusing to allow the Gospel to change us into your people. We speak hate, lies, and act selfishly. We gossip, and slander. We bring division rather than being peacemakers. Help us O God. Forgive us and free us. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us once again so that we may drink of your new wine and intoxicate our lives with your love and your truth.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Living God, Giver of life, We thank you for this holy mystery where you have given yourself to us. We thank you for the Holy Spirit and for your abiding presence within us. Revive our faith and renew us with your cup of salvation, so that living waters may flow from our hearts into the life of the world. May our giving today show our trust in you, as we go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE MEANING OF PENTECOST

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 people 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, "Fellow Jews 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 the Lord's great and glorious day.

In verse 12 of this section of scripture a very important question is asked: "What does this mean?" If we had been in Jerusalem on that day we would have asked the same question, for something amazing had happened. Jerusalem was packed with people, many of whom were there to present the first-fruits of the harvest for the year; they would have come from many different places. The Lord Jesus had completed His earthly ministry, having died, risen and ascended; but before going back to heaven He had given a command and a promise to His own disciples - Acts 1:4-5. In simple obedience these disciples met together to wait upon the Lord, and they did this for ten days - look up Acts 1:13-14; Acts 2:1-3. Then something very wonderful happened - Acts 2:1-3; and in the opening part of verse 4 we read of the essential thing which happened - "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." These disciples of Christ then began preaching the gospel in known languages (though unknown to themselves) so that people from foreign countries heard God's message in their own native tongue - see Acts 2:4-12. But what did all this mean? What does Pentecost mean? Here are some straightforward scriptural answers:

1. Pentecost means that the Christian faith and the Christian gospel have to do with certain great facts of history, great acts of God.

It is in this respect that Christianity differs from and is superior to every other religious system. The Christian gospel is not just a lovely story, although it is that, because it is the story of something very wonderful that God has done in history. He has sent His own Son into this world (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15). At just the right time Jesus came, rose, and ascended and went back to the right-hand of God (Galatians 4:4-6). The other wonderful thing that God has done in history is this: He has sent the Holy Spirit to live within and to empower His own people, and the second chapter of Acts records this.

THE MEANING OF PENTECOST

2. Pentecost means that God is working for the redemption of men and women according to a carefully pre-ordained plan or program.

There is nothing haphazard about God – Pentecost teaches this. From Acts 2:1 we learn that it was a pre-determined event in the mind of God. The Holy Spirit was not poured out as the result of the prayer meeting held by the disciples. In Leviticus 23:15-16 we read of the feast of Pentecost, which was to take place fifty days after the Passover feast. The Lord Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after His resurrection, and then ten days after that came the Day of Pentecost. Notice in Acts 2:13-17 that Pentecost was the first fulfilment of Joel's prophecy which had been made 850 years previously (Joel 2:28-32).

3. Pentecost means that the Holy Spirit, who in Old Testament times came upon God's servants to empower them, has now come to live for ever within every Christian.

In many of His sayings, the Lord Jesus anticipated the coming of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39; John 14:16-17). He promised that He would come to indwell all Christians, and at Pentecost that is exactly what happened - "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (verse 4). Since that day, immediately someone becomes a Christian the Holy Spirit takes up residence; this is the distinctive mark of a real Christian; look up and compare Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19.

4. Pentecost means that the Holy Spirit who indwells every Christian waits and wants to fill every Christian.

If you look again at Acts 2:4 you will notice that they were "all filled" - young and old, rich and poor, educated and illiterate, preachers and pray-ers, were filled. This is God's plan and provision for every one of His children; this is to be the normal experience for Christians - look up Acts 4:31; 9:17 and 13:52.

5. Pentecost means that God's power is available to enable every Christian to live the Christian life and to serve God effectively.

If you study the Lord's pattern for Christian living and serving you will find that Christians are to be new people (2 Corinthians 5:17); they are to be love-filled (John 13:34-35); holy (1 Peter 1:15); courageous (Acts 4:13); willing to suffer (Acts 5:41); they are to witness with power (Acts 1:8); to take the gospel to the ends of the world (Matthew 28:19). But how is this possible? - Zechariah 4:6!

6. Pentecost means that Christians are not isolated units but they are joined together as members of one glorious body, the Church.

Look up 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and notice that there is only one body...there are many members... all Christians have been baptized or united into the one body...and all Christians have received the Holy Spirit. This is true unity! It is the Holy Spirit who creates the unity of the Spirit and who unites believers - look up Ephesians 4:3.

7. Pentecost means that the Gospel is for everybody and that anybody, anywhere, may be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We get this clearly brought out in Acts 2:21. What an amazing thing it is that provision has been made by the Lord for "whoever believes in him" (John 3:16) to know the Lord Jesus Christ as the living Savior and the Holy Spirit as the abiding, indwelling Comforter!

Acts 2 - Pentecost - Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

L S X F T O C Q T F O S Q A X M Q O W A B Z V G T B K D Y D
A B R I C K U T S Z F Q P C M N I Z P H F I T S E U Q M E V
N A V L Y L S Y E N C J L E L A V T M A O N O R R H W T Q E
G R X L Z T Q L U P E A O U A C Z R W L D C S Q I H S L R E
U A K E Q N D F M D J E S X F K X E E K E E E N F E B O Q G
A R J D W H L K F R U E R D D W W N D T H C Q A R B G U Z O
G M H W Z E I M T I R N B E O W T X N F B M B E V B P N Y I
E T Y I V A B L J G X S N Y D W X E C F T F U B K M V S K N
S Q D T J V Y K V D V L H L I Q P P W R W G Z V F T W Z N X
R I N H Q E A T E F G P A N I E A W J C N J V W U O B E W R
A D M N Y N E R P J M E D V B V B P S O S W E J T U O V E D
P H I E W L E D V C I L W E O R S V T I J C K K Z V C X C S
U U Y W L D S F I L L E D W I T H T H E H O L Y S P I R I T
R M C W L A O E S Z A K K W G E Y N I F Q C D T L Y F R C O
P F X I P P S D U I J R W A E M O R T Q A Q E H K Z U F J A
Q N W N S M E U C G W U L C Y Z P H U W A K R Z F E I A I I
Z E A E X E V O R V N I S F E B I M L O V E E Q N O B E G M
B V Y L D S D F C E L O T E U P P Z A L O S H N A T I V E A
L U Y S A A Y Y N E J N T E T Z I B T O G E T H E R X T A T
Q S D Q P C R T A K M N P D J I I J C I P N A V S X T Y S O
P O U P H E Z N P F Y S I F E L M R P H R Y G I A X I X T P
G A A D N E S K N A J T E G I D G A J A Y Z D C B K B P O O
W C M E D E S U O H E R I T N E V K L S Z C W A K K E W N S
P A A P V E V S R W V W Y W Y I F I J E M W O Q V R K Z I E
K G R W H S N A I H T R A P G L V R D Y J C R V P G Q T S M
U T M W Y Y B L W C B R S R P V E I R N G E C L Y K M O H J
K Z M J M Z L Y Y C V I J A X Z B S L W O N E A N O T H E R
J E X Q D Y V I J R O K P S H D O P O P F X B D B T G V D I
Y P D U J A W Z A Y H D B O I Y A F P R E L G J X B I M P K
V W L G Z I T Y O D V Q K Q T X P Z D D P U P F L P E R M O

Find the **37 bold** words or phrases from Acts 2

When the day of ***Pentecost*** had come, they were all ***together*** in one place. 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. ***Divided tongues***, as of ***fire***, appeared among them, and a ***tongue rested*** on each of them. All of them were ***filled with the Holy Spirit*** and began to ***speak*** in other ***languages***, as the Spirit gave them ***ability***. Now there were ***devout Jews*** from every people under heaven ***living in Jerusalem***. And at this sound the ***crowd gathered*** and was ***bewildered***, because each one heard them speaking in the ***native*** language of each. ***Amazed*** and ***astonished***, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking ***Galileans***? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ***Parthians***, Medes, ***Elamites***, and residents of ***Mesopotamia***, Judea and ***Cappadocia***, Pontus and Asia, ***Phrygia*** and ***Pamphylia***, Egypt and the parts of ***Libya*** belonging to ***Cyrene***, and visitors from ***Rome***, both Jews and ***proselytes***, Cretans and ***Arabs***—in our own languages we hear them speaking about ***God’s deeds*** of power.” All were amazed and ***perplexed***, saying to ***one another***, “What does this mean?” But others ***sneered*** and said, “They are ***filled with new wine***.”

Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

January - Cereal
February - peanut butter
March - canned fruit
April - mac 'n' cheese
May - canned meat / fish
June - canned veggies
July - staples, rice, beans, pasta
August - cereal
September - peanut butter
October - canned veggies
November - canned 'thanksgiving'
December - Pot Luck

The following list was shared by a food bank volunteer.

These are some excellent suggestions if you are unsure what to give, or if you see these items on sale.

Fresh items should be taken directly to the food pantry.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.