

# Pentecost 1998: First Fruits

## Pentecost 1998: First Fruits

**Seekers Church:**

**A Christian Community**

*In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour*

Pentecost 1998

## First Fruits

### SILENT REFLECTION

There is a perverse playfulness in the world that will not allow us to take it for granted. It is a living and lively force with which we have to do.

Philip H. Pfatteicher, *Liturgical Spirituality*, pg 107.

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

The whole world tells the greatness of God's name,  
glory that reaches beyond the stars.

People:

Even the babble of infants declares God's strength.  
The moon and the stars are set in their places.

Leader:

Cattle and sheep, wild beasts,  
birds of the sky, fish of the sea –

Unison:

We join with the whole world  
to declare the greatness of God's ways.

From Psalm 8

## **INVOCATION**

## **HYMN**

## **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

## **SILENCE**

## **LITANY OF FIRST FRUITS**

Leader:

We remember God's gift of the Holy Spirit,  
and the harvest that follows that gift.

Voice 1:

All who allow the Spirit to guide them  
are true children of God.

Voice 2:

O sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord all the earth!

Voice 1:

For God did not send to us the spirit of chaos  
to drive us back into slavery.

Voice 2:

Let the heavens be glad  
and let the earth rejoice!

Voice 1:

The winds of God's Spirit beckon us  
to share the lively journey of our brother Jesus,  
to bear our own crosses,  
and to taste, with him, the luscious freedom of  
resurrection.

Voice 2:

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it!  
Let the field exalt, and everything in it!

Unison:

Then shall all the trees of the forest  
sing for joy before the Lord.

For we have received the first fruits of the Spirit!

From Romans 8 and Psalm 96

## **SILENCE**

## **PRAYERS**

### **COMMON CONFESSION**

Leader:

How easily we run through the garden of your delight  
without a hint of joy.

Unison:

As a fish swims, unaware of lifegiving water,  
we forget to be present  
to the perverse richness of your love.  
Jolt us awake with your Spirit!

### **INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE**

Leader:

Asleep and unaware  
or wide-eyed to the presence of Christ  
our lives are filled with the breath of the spirit. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

## **HYMN**

## **THE WORD**

## **FIRST LESSON**

## **SILENCE**

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

## **SERMON**

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

*The first Sunday of each month we switch to a Communion Liturgy here.*

## **OFFERING**

## **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader:

Go from this place  
to share the fruits of God's Holy Spirit  
with every neighbor.

And the fruits of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self  
control.

Enjoy, and Amen.

Leader:

So much to do, so much to be...

Voice 1:

How easily  
we run through the garden of your delight  
without a hint of joy.

Unison:

Hit us up 'side the head, O God!

Voice 2:

So many of us,  
raised in the culture of "Christianity"  
trip over the perversity of your true love.

Unison:

O God, fill us with your love.

Leader:

And when we think we hear you call,  
our somber selves get in the way  
of your playful compassion.

Unison:

O God, show us how to serve  
the neighbors we find in you.  
Waking or sleeping, God is with us.  
In love and abundance,  
God preserves us, sustains us,  
and brings us to each new season. Amen.