



**First Christian Church of Decatur
(Disciples of Christ)**

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Resolve to Love 🌐 Agree to Differ 🌐 Unite to Serve 🌐 Break Bread Together

**Sunday, May 19, 2024
Pentecost Sunday**

Worship theme

Today I saw the Holy Spirit fly
down the street, its black breast complicated
with the pink-green-indigo iridescence
of polluted run-off, beautiful, despite.

The vision
helped me see there's so little difference
between doves and pigeons that it's crazy
to distinguish—though pigeons might be plumper—
mostly just a matter of color.

Why favor white when the dark down shimmers?
How many other ways are there
to say it: doves are not interested in us.
Why prize them when pigeons are everywhere?
Why not read their nearness as luck.

Wings of storm or snow-on-clay
around the hearts' visible vibration,
the love they make all summer. Teeming
usual blessings, forever in the way.

"Holy Spirit" by Nicole Cuddeback

All In



We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme	Rev. Answai White-Burch
Prelude	Adam Cole
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Daniel C. Brower
Opening Hymn	<i>“Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”</i> 248

*1. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,
with all your quickening powers;
kindle a flame of sacred love
in these cold hearts of ours.*

*2. Hosannas languish on our tongues,
and our devotion dies.
Waken our souls to joyful songs;
let pure devotion rise.*

*3. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,
with your enlivening ways;
come, shed abroad the Savior’s love,
and teach our hearts to praise.*

Call to Worship (<i>from Acts 2</i>)	Rev. Answai White-Burch
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One: Hear what God says! In the last days,

Many: I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

One: Your children will boldly speak the word of the Lord.

Many: Young warriors will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams.

One: Yes, in those days I shall offer My Spirit to all servants, and they will boldly speak My word.

Many: And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be liberated into God’s freedom and peace.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (<i>by Don E. Saliers</i>)	Rev. Answai White-Burch
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God of wind, word, and fire, we bless your name this day for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit. We give you thanks for all the gifts, great and small, that you have poured out upon your children. Accept us with our gifts to be living praise and witness to your love throughout all the

earth; in your Spirit we pray, Amen.

Song of Praise

"Spirit of the Living God"

259

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh me.*

We Receive and Respond to the Word

Holy Scriptures

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

Acts 2: 1-12

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?"

Matthew 3: 13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Anthem

Hymn Sing

Sermon

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Communion Hymn

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

245

*1. Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*2. To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*3. With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship & Holy Communion

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

(Christ invites you to partake of Holy Communion. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. After the Words of Institution are proclaimed, you are invited to partake of the Bread and the Cup.)

Words of Institution

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

One: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said,

Many: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

Many: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you remember the Lord until He comes.

Unison Prayer of Commission

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

We Are Led Out by the Spirit

Closing Hymn

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

261

*1. There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

*[Refrain] Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.*

Postlude

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Mark Your Calendars

Sundays – Rev. Stan Saunders Sunday School, Pathfinders, 9:30 AM

Sun, May 19 – Pentecost Sunday!

Sun, May 19 – Congregational Meeting following worship, Fellowship Hall

Sun, May 19 – Atlanta Musicians' Orchestra, Sanctuary, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Sun, May 19 – Amy Wilson Spring Recital, Sanctuary, 3:00 PM

Sat, May 25 – Junk in the Trunk, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Welcome Statement

All In



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ) is an open and affirming congregation.

We welcome everyone into full participation in the life and membership of the church.

Inspired and informed by God's love, mercy, and justice, we are purposefully involved in the healing and helping of our community and our world. We covenant with God and the greater community to nurture a spirit of love and service to neighbors, honor one another's differences, and fellowship in the breaking of the bread.

Actively striving to honor each other's race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, family configuration, political affiliation, economic circumstance, or theological perspective, we truly welcome all.

Online Giving



First Christian Church of Decatur is a spiritual community that transcends physical distance. In this unprecedented time, online giving is a positive way that this growing faith community can be supported.

As we often say in worship at the Invitation to Faithful Stewardship, "Those in need, please take; those with abundance, please give." If and when you find yourself in need, please let us know so we might be of assistance. You matter to your Church, which is the Body of Christ. The missions of our church are imperative to nurture a hurt and hurting world.

For those who would like to give out of gratitude for all the Lord is doing in our lives, please click the following link:

<https://www.osvhub.com/decaturdisciples/giving/funds>

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Ministers: All the People

Your Church Staff:

Rev. Daniel C. Brower, Associate Pastor

Russell Broomfield-Ranney, *Church Bookkeeper*
Adam Cole, *Organist*
Tanya DePree, *Church Administrator*
William E. Garner, *Director of Music*
Kedric Kelly, *Facility Manager*

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 3 pm