

Thursday Connect Group | June 12, 2025

Welcome and gathering

Let's get to know each other.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and how things are going with you.

Building a patchwork prayer quilt together

We create this prayer using the prayer lines you contribute. We will use this prayer from week to week in this Connect group.

To date, this is our prayer. Email eabeecham@gmail.com when you feel moved to add a line:

Opening prayer

Teach us, God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, to pay attention to each other as you do for us when we speak to you. Teach us, God, to listen to one another, to share with each other, to pray together, to hear your word and to grow in faith as a community.

May we feel your love, support, and guidance in every pause, every laugh, and every truth spoken. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for drawing us together from many places and tongues, just as You did at Pentecost.

We ask You to baptize each one of us with Your Holy Spirit—fill us afresh, guide our hearts, and transform our lives.

Help us walk in the path of salvation with courage, joy, and in the power of the Spirit.

Let us not build towers of pride, but instead become temples of Your Spirit, doing Your **Will** each day.

Use us to speak Your message with clarity, love, and power—so that all may know You. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

We invite you to name those in your thoughts and prayers, either silently or aloud.

Scripture and Gospel readings

Genesis 11:1–9

A reading from the Book of Genesis

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us

make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

⁵ The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acts 2:1–21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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 nation 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: "Men of Judea 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.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved ..."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 14:8–17, 25–27

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you ...”

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid ...”

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion of Scripture Passage | Spreading the message: Interpretation and understanding

1. In Genesis , we learn about a people of one language that work to build the Tower of Babel into the sky, approaching the heavens. The response from God is to confuse the language of the people and scatter them across the earth.	<i>What does building the tower represent for you?</i> <i>Does the proliferation of languages mean there will be misunderstanding among different peoples?</i>
2. In Acts , which we heard told in eleven languages in a multi-lingual reading on Pentecost Sunday, we hear the dramatic story of the coming down of the Spirit, the tongues of flame and the speaking in tongues with full understanding by people of many nations.	<i>Does this Pentecost story give you hope that there can be understanding and cooperation across people of different languages and cultures?</i> <i>What was your reaction to this part of the service?</i>
3. According to scripture the Holy Spirit came for all people, just as Jesus came	<i>Does the church do a good job spreading its message to all people?</i>

for all people (the Greek translation is actually "all flesh").	
4. In the Gospel story from John , Jesus tells his disciples of the coming of the Spirit to them and that he will leave with them his peace (Shalom).	<p><i>How does the embodied example of Jesus give you peace and take you beyond fear?</i></p> <p><i>Do you feel the Spirit working in you and in our church?</i></p>
5. In her homily, Rev. Ali talked about the radical inclusion and welcoming that we are called to provide by the Pentecost story.	<p><i>What does this story call us to do as a baptized people filled with the Holy Spirit?</i></p> <p><i>How can we work to make our church more inclusive to all?</i></p>
6. In the Pentecost story we hear the story about God's Holy Spirit coming to earth.	<p><i>How does this affect our lives as Christians?</i></p> <p><i>What is your relationship with the Holy Spirit?</i></p> <p><i>Why do you think the coming of the Holy Spirit was powerful enough to shake the disciples out of their fear?</i></p>
7. Two wonderful new members of our church were baptized on Sunday.	<i>How do you feel being present at baptisms?</i>
8. During the service members of the community promised to support the newly baptized in their life of faith.	<i>How will you support Rita and Shervin?</i>

Closing prayer

Gracious God, give us the bravery of St. George to stand up for the truth and the glory of God that we have seen in the face of Jesus Christ. Give us the strength to overcome in our lives and in the world, all that is contrary to your rule of justice and love. Help us to be good news to the suffering, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to those who will not see; let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the good news of God's favour and Jubilee. **Amen.**

Closing blessing

Eternal God, we rejoice your greatness and power, your gentleness and love, your mercy and justice. Enable us by your Spirit to honour you in our thoughts and words and actions, and to serve you in every aspect of our lives; and may God our Creator bless you and keep you all your days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We look forward to connecting with you again next Thursday, June 19, 2025.