Sixth Sunday of Easter      May 17, 2020
Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of God’s praise be heard…Psalm 66:8

We Gather in the Spirit

Welcoming One Another

Call to Worship
Lovers of God, draw near, for in the sacred heart of Love we live and move and have our being.

Spirit of the Living God
Words/Music: Daniel Iverson, 1926
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Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.

Opening Prayer
Holy God, as we reflect on the mystery and the miracle of your presence with us and amongst us, anchor us in your love, ground us in your peace, and open us to the truth and the comfort of your Holy Spirit, today and always. Amen.

Opening Song
Love Divine
UMH #384
Words: Charles Wesley, 1747/ Music: John Zundel, 1870 © OneLicense.net #A7029009

Love Divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation
God of all, whom we have learned to see in the person of Jesus the Christ, open our eyes to your presence around us. Open our hearts, that we might see you in the living and growing of your Creation. We confess that we see you more easily in those who look like us, think like us, act like us. We confess that we can struggle to see you in those who are different – in the diversity of Creation; we confess that we do not always see that you are more significant than we are, more diverse than we are, more inclusive than we are. We confess that in refusing to see you in all our neighbors, we have refused to love you as you have loved us.

All:    Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to see beyond ourselves. Help us to keep your commandments. Help us to feel confident enough in your love for us that we can acknowledge your love for others without fear. Amen

God of grace, you invite us to love one another as you have loved us. And so we remember your abiding love. We remember that you did not wait until we were ready but sent Jesus the Christ to guide us in your way. For your grace is poured out upon us before we even ask, calling us always back to you.
By your mercy, we are beloved. By your grace, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

We Hear God’s Word
Come Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

Gospel Reading  John 14:15-21  New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask God, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees the Spirit nor knows the Spirit. You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you, and the Spirit will be in you. ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Witness to the Word  Witness of Love  Pastor Catiana

Litany
One: Where there are places of fear in our lives, All: may they be filled with the Holy Spirit.
One: Where fear distorts our perspective, All: may your Holy Spirit shine light.
One: Where people live in fear of or in the midst of war, All: may your Holy Spirit bring comfort.
One: When your church is afraid to speak out on matters of justice and of peace, All: may your Holy Spirit move us to speak truth.
One: God of grace, when we fear your call on our lives, All: may your Holy Spirit comfort and reassure us.
One: When we orphan ourselves from you by controlling and working out of our own authority, All: remind us that power and authority rest with you, oh God.

We Respond in Faith

Offering our prayers  Breath of God, Breath of Peace (W & S #3145)
Words: Adam M. L. Tice/Music: Sally Ann Morris  ©20 GIA Publishing; OneLicense.net #A7029009
Prayers of the Community
God our parent, Jesus promised to always be with those who follow him, we pray for those who live alone and those who are lonely. In a moment of silence we hold up to the light of your love to one person who is on our hearts. (Silence)

God of justice, Jesus spoke truth to power. We pray for those who suffer for speaking the truth, for your prophets of every generation. We pray for prisoners and for people and organizations that work for the release of those unjustly imprisoned. In a moment of silence we hold up to the light of your love one situation or person that is on our hearts.

(Silence.)

God of all, we pray for this community of faith, for those who hold positions of authority and responsibility. May we be so held in your love for each one of us that our relationships are free from envy, competitiveness, and divisiveness. May we, as the Body of Christ, embody your love, your truth and your grace.

God of compassion, Jesus spoke out for children. We pray for children everywhere, for those who silently cry out for nurture, for those who live in fear, and for those who live in poverty.

We pray for the children of this community of faith, that they may grow in the security of knowing they are your children and of part of the Body of Christ.

In a moment of silence, we hold up to the light of your love ….one child who is on our hearts. (Silence.) Bring us and all your children into the spacious place of your love. Amen.

Prayer of Jesus
Together, let us pray the Lord’s Prayer, in the language or form of your heart.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FROM THE RITUAL OF THE FORMER METHODIST CHURCH

Offering our Gifts
“Change for the Better” Rockford Urban Ministries

Rockford Urban Ministries (RUM) is an outreach of twenty area United Methodist congregations that finds new ways to do Christ’s work in the urban setting. The director is empowered to speak out on social justice issues and work with social service agencies to find ways to fill the ever-increasing gap in the social net, bringing Christ’s love to those who need it most.

Sharing our Gifts
We encourage you to donate by mail or online (please check web site for online donating- currently being set up), as we rely on donations to pay our staff and bills, even in this time of uncertainty. Information to come.

Singing Our Thanksgiving
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication
One: Loving God, we bring our lives and gifts to you as a sign of our new life and new hope in you.
All: May all that we say, and all that we do, be in response to your love - a love offered freely to all people through Christ our Lord. Amen
We Go Forth in God’s Spirit

Closing Song  

Loving Spirit  
Words: Shirley Erena Murray/Music V. Earle Copes  
Words©1987 The Hymn Society, admin. by Hope Publishing Co.; OneLicense.net #A7029009  
TFWS #2123

1. Loving Spirit, Loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be.  
You have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

2. Like a mother you enfold me,  
Hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.

3 Like a father you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.

4. Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort,  
in your presence I may rest.

Blessing & Sending Forth

Go and be the Body of Christ, fulfill love’s expectation of where there is love, there is God.
Go with the blessings of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, your advocate forever!


By God’s grace, the Galena United Methodist Church is the Body of Christ striving to fulfill Christ’s Great Command to love God & love neighbor, & Christ’s Great Commission to make disciples.


Affiliated with the Reconciling Ministries Network

God, as known to us in Jesus Christ, welcomes all.
We welcome people of any race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, social or economic status, employment status, or life situation; including people with physical or mental illness or disability.
We practice loving acceptance of each person and respectful discussion of our differences.

Ministry Team and Staff

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