

# *The Great Fifty Days*

## *Scripture and Prayers*

### *for the Season of Eastertide*



*for the week of May 24, 2020*

HAMILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
5532 HARFORD ROAD  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

## THE LAST WEEK OF THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS

This last week leads us into the Day of Pentecost. I call this “the Birthday of the Christian Church.” It is the time when this bunch of scared, frazzled, unfocused and waiting disciples receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost, with Christmas and Easter, is one of the great festivals of the Church. The world has done quite a job of commercializing Christmas and Easter. Pentecost has confounded them. But we are at the corner of Hanford and Evergreen because of this day.

As you move toward this great day, here is a prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life:  
At the beginning of time  
    you moved over the face of the waters;  
you breathe into every living being, the breath of life.  
Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation.

Holy Spirit, voice of the prophets:  
You enflame men and women with a passion for your truth,  
    and through them call your people  
    to the ways of justice and compassion.  
Come, Spirit of Righteousness, and burn in our hearts.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus:  
By your power Jesus came to bring  
    good news to the poor  
    and release to those held captive.  
Come, Liberating Spirit,  
    and free us from the powers of sin and death.

Holy Spirit, Advocate, Teacher:  
You speak to us of our Lord,  
    and show us the depth of his love.  
Come, Spirit of Truth, abide in us  
    and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, wind and flame:  
You filled disciples with joy and courage,  
empowering them to preach your word  
and to share your good news.  
Come, Spirit of Power,  
make us bold witnesses of your redeeming love.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Peace:  
You break down barriers of language, race, and culture,  
and heal the divisions that separate us.  
Come, Reconciling Spirit,  
and unite us all in the love of Christ.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life:  
At the close of the age  
all creation will be renewed to sing your praises.  
Come, Creator Spirit,  
and make us new creations in Jesus Christ.

From the Reformed Church in America

## A WEEK OF SCRIPTURE READING

**Sunday** - **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Eastertide** **May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 93  
An Epistle Reading: I Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

**Monday** - **May 11**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 97  
A Gospel Reading: Luke 9:18-27

**Tuesday** - **May 12**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 98; Psalm 146  
A Gospel Reading: Luke 11:1-13

**Wednesday** - **May 13**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 99  
A Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-21

**Thursday** - **May 14**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 68  
A Gospel Reading: Luke 12:22-34

**Friday** - **May 15**

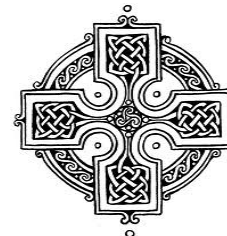
Psalm for the Day: Psalm 138  
A Gospel Reading: Luke 13:18-29

**Saturday** - **May 16**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 23  
A Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

**Sunday** - **Pentecost Sunday** **May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 116, Psalm 117  
An Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10



*(If the mail is slow, we provide  
a start on the new week.)*

# STRONGER Stronger Together

WE WILL PERSEVERE.

“We have entered the endurance phase of this pandemic. We are slowly mastering this disease, but we have not yet done so. And so we wait — and endure.

“Endurance is patience. It is shortening your time horizon so you just have to get through this day. Endurance is living with unpleasantness. In fact, it is finding you can adapt and turn the strangest circumstance into routine.

“Endurance is fortifying. It is discovering you can get socked in the nose and take it.”

David Brooks  
NY Times, 5/15/2020

When I read these comments from David Brooks, I immediately thought of the J. B. Phillips’ translation of Paul’s good word in II Corinthians 4:7-9:

“This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in a common earthenware jar—to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us.

“We are handicapped on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out!”