



May 19, 2024

The Day of Pentecost

Confirmation Sunday

8410 Little River Turnpike Annandale, VA 22003-3710

(703) 978-3060 ~ office@lrucc.org www.lrucc.org

WELCOME!

We are glad you're worshiping with us today! Since our founding in the 1950s, we at Little River United Church of Christ (UCC) have been called by God to celebrate diversity, independent thought, and faithful action. This call led us to become racially integrated in the segregated Virginia of the 1950s, and in 2001 to become an open and affirming congregation that celebrates LGBTQ+ folks, including full access to the rites of ordination and marriage. We invite you to become part of this community, building on our heritage of proclaiming God's radically inclusive love to our congregation, neighborhood, and world. We'd love to have you join us in these sacred tasks!

Please take a moment to fill out the red friendship notebook at the end of each pew, so that our pastor might offer a word of welcome.

We're IN-Person and Online

We are excited to welcome members, friends, and visitors for worship both in person and online (hybrid services). Masks are optional for those attending worship in person. All worship services are recorded and uploaded to YouTube for on-demand viewing. Those attending worship in-person (adults and children) may be seen attending and participating during the worship service.

LET THE CHILDREN COME!

Little River's nursery welcomes infants through 4 year olds on Sunday mornings (9:30 A.M.–12 P.M.) with our devoted child care providers, Yris and Mia. During 10 A.M. Sunday worship, Sunday School is offered for 5 year olds through 12th grade. The Youth Group meets on select Sundays for 6th–12th grades. Please check with an usher for the location of classes.

STAY IN TOUCH

Little River UCC produces a weekly e-newsletter, *Current Tidings*, and periodically sends out *Alerts* (emails with significant, time-sensitive information). All submissions for the weekly bulletin and e-newsletter should be submitted to the office by Wednesdays at noon. We also send out a monthly print newsletter, *Current Reflections*. To receive any of these communications, please send an email to <u>currents@lrucc.org</u> or call the church office at 703-978-3060 to give us your contact information.

We have a Facebook page (<u>Facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist</u>) and an Instagram account (<u>Instagram.com/littleriverucc/</u>) where we post photos of recent events, announcements of upcoming programs, and news from the wider UCC. We also have a Facebook private group (<u>Facebook.com/groups/80950098659</u>) for members and friends, where we can share prayer concerns and thanksgivings, post and discuss church events, and post other items of interest to Little River community members.

STAFF AND PARTNERS

The Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe, Senior Minister Craig Stapert, Director of Music and Communications Ashton Streavig, Children and Youth Choir Director Kathy Heyman, Office Administrator Chris DiMascio, Building and Grounds Manager Jay Shackley, Communications Assistant Yris Saenz, Child Care Provider Mia Morgan, Church School Teacher Assistant The Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus shelli@lrucc.org craig@lrucc.org ashton@lrucc.org kathy@lrucc.org chris@lrucc.org jay@lrucc.org

The Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP May 19, 2024 * PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

CENTERING MUSIC

Veni, Creator Spiritus setting by Wilbur Held

Craig Stapert, organ

Please take a moment to fill out the red friendship notebook at the end of each pew and return it so that you can greet those sitting near you.

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ellen Wertman

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

- One: Do not give easy or unthinking response to this day's call to worship. For today we ask God's Spirit to fill us, that we may prophesy and dream dreams, and see visions. The call to worship today is a summons to be touched by holy fire.
- All: Even now the flames may dance above our heads,
- One: Igniting our opinions on peacemaking so that they blaze into commitment.
- All: Animating us, leaving us no rest as individuals until God's justice and peace fill the earth as the waters fill the seas. One: Prophets, visionaries, dreamers! Let us all worship with courage and hope.
- INVOCATION

* Hymn On Pentecost They Gathered (SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious One, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death. We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and our relationships. We have hurt others and been hurt by them. We are often angry or afraid. We're not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for others' needs. Forgive us, Holy One. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that by our lives and our loving, we may glorify you, through Christ the risen one. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

If you are worshiping with us online, please type your words of peace in the chat box. If you are worshiping in person, please greet one another as you feel most comfortable.

The peace of Christ be with you. One:

All: And also with you.

Ellen Wertman

MUNICH

Ellen Wertman

Anthem		rt of Your Dreaming Kevin Bates	Joyful Noise Choir
Time with Children			Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATIO	DN		Ellen Wertman
SCRIPTURE LESSON One: In these w All: Amen.		Acts 2:1–21 r the Wisdom of God.	Ellen Wertman
* Hymn 236 (see back of bulletin fo	<i>Wind that Makes All Winds that Blow</i> R MUSIC)		ABERYSTWYTH
INVITATION TO BAPTISM A	and Confirmation	N	Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe
Evan Honeysett		Julie MacDonald	
Seth Honeysett		Mary Mireku	
Benjamin Christopher Hunter		Annelise Stapert	

Sentences

Allie MacDonald

- Ellen: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.
- One: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

All: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

One: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the turning away from self-centeredness and the turning toward a life of God-centeredness. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Questions of the Candidates

<u>Act of Baptism</u>

One: Congregation, Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized as he lives and grows in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

One ...

All: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ. And give to the newly baptized strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life. Through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

All: We covenant with Christ and one another in the presence of God, to walk together in the way of Jesus by divine grace.

Prayer of the Candidates

Prayers of the Congregation

All: Almighty Love, who in baptism received these servants into the church, forgave them, and promised them abundant life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation All: Amen.

Prayer of Confirmation All: Amen.

<u>Address</u>

Question about Participation

Welcome

All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

Prayer All: Amen.

Benediction

* Hymn	Great Work Has God Begun in You	PUER NOBIS NASCITUR	
(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)			

CALL TO OFFERING

Ellen Wertman

An usher will be near the back of the sanctuary to receive your gifts at the end of the service. To give online, the QR code in your bulletin will direct you to the donation webpage, or you may visit www.lrucc.org. You may also mail a check to the church.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THANKSGIVINGS & CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

Those worshiping in person may raise a hand and a microphone will be brought to you. If you'd like to share with our community through our email communications only, please use the Thanksgivings and Concerns card near you, and give it to an usher when the service is concluded. Those on Zoom may type a prayer request in the chat box to be read in the service on your behalf; please include your name with the prayer request. If you do not wish to share your prayer concern with the congregation, you may email Pastor Shelli at <u>Shelli@lrucc.org</u>.

Please end your time of sharing by saying, "This is my prayer." We will respond by saying, "This is our prayer." Ellen Wertman

OLD HUNDREDTH

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Realm come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Reign, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* Нумn	Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us	EBENEZER
(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN F	CK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)	
* Benediction		Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

* BENEDICTION

Postlude

Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott by Dietrich Buxtehude

Craig Stapert, organ

We encourage you to enjoy the postlude as a time of reflection to conclude our worship together. If you need to slip out, please use a side door.

Please join us in the social hall for coffee and conversation following the postlude.

The sanctuary flowers today were in honor of today's confirmands.

Portions of the liturgy are adapted from Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, eds., Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated (The Pilgrim Press, 2012). Music used with permission, reprinted and streamed under Onelicense A-715105.

LITTLE RIVER CHANGES LIVES!



Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ministries of Little River. To use the QR Code to the left, open your phone camera and direct it toward the code. Wait for a link to pop up, and then tap the link. It will take you directly to the Little River donation webpage. Thank you for your support!

TODAY

Pentecost & Confirmation

This morning we celebrate the Day of Pentecost when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. On this special day, we also welcome seven youth as new members through Confirmation.

Strengthen the Church Offering

This is the second UCC-wide special offering of this calendar year that we collect as a congregation. The offering is important to increase the impact of the UCC. Funds raised by Little River are shared with the Central Atlantic Conference and our national office. The offering supports new church starts, leadership development, youth ministry and innovation among existing congregations. You may place your offering in the designated envelopes, by check with "STC" in the memo line or online at Little River UCC's website lrucc.org.

Fair Trade Sale

Fair Trade items are on sale today before and after the worship service. Look for the Fair Trade table outside the main social hall doors to stock up on olive oil, coffee, and delicious chocolate bars. Cash, checks, and credit cards are now accepted for purchases.

Childcare is available from 9:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. every Sunday! Bring your children of any age to the nursery, and Yris and Mia will care for them while you prepare for and participate in worship. At coffee hour, Yris and Mia staff our Kids' Table, where children of all ages can eat together and find table activities to enjoy. If some kids want to go outside on the playground, Yris or Mia will go with them to supervise. If you're on your way to another church activity, just sign your children in with Yris and Mia by 11:30 A.M. Depending on the needs of the children present, they'll stay in the social hall, play outside, or go to the nursery. Pick up your children by 12 P.M., or let us know at least a week ahead of time that you'll need extended child care by emailing <u>office@lrucc.org</u>.

Newcomers Welcome Opportunities

Are you new to Little River and looking for ways to connect? We want to get to know you and connect you with our community. Newcomers are welcome to join us for coffee hour after worship. Look for the "Welcome Table," where you can meet other newcomers and get to know us a bit better.

Preorder Pride T-Shirts - Today is Last Chance to Order

Our Open and Affirming Ministry is gearing up for Pride month in June, and will have T-shirts that prominently display our church name on them so that we can be seen at Fairfax Pride on June 1 and in the DC Pride March on June 8. The T-shirts will have our logo on the front and LGBTQ + LRUCC = [heart] on the back. We are accepting pre-orders through today. The T-shirts are \$25 each, which is just above the actual price of the shirt; the extra funds will go toward giveaways at Pride events. We now have the ability to take cash or card, so please stop by the table after worship if you would like to order a shirt, or order online at <u>lrucc.org</u>.

Today, May 19

Today, May 19

Today, before and after worship

Art Exhibit: The Nature of it All

Little River has the privilege of hosting The Nature of it All, a traveling art exhibit featuring artists who are on death row. This collection of art was curated by Jessie Houff and Rachel Gross of the Death Row Support Project, a program of the Church of the Brethren that invites volunteers to correspond with death row inmates. Several Little River members have been a part of the ministry. The exhibit, which is displayed in the church's main hallway, lifts up the stories of incarcerated individuals and continues important conversations about the prison industrial complex. The artists sent their works of art they created to express their thanks for pairing them with a pen pal. Please take a few minutes to view the beautiful artworks. Special thanks to Caroline Labbé (picked up the artwork) and David Roach (helped hang and display the art) for their time and assistance with the exhibit.

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Book Group

LRUCC Book Group in May will be presented by the Women's Ministry and supported by our Antiracism Ministry. We will discuss *Hollywatts*, the memoir of our former interim pastor, the Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr. He describes the journey his family took from the segregated life in Memphis to a new life in Southern California, seeking a better life that his parents wanted for the family. Seven years after graduating from high school the author returns to see a dramatically changed Watts. Guns, gangs, and drugs completely transformed his childhood home, a change that Pastor Art describes as orchestrated. Our discussion will center on the life of the Cribbs family and the possible sources of the changes the author describes. As a very special guest, the author himself, Pastor Art, will be joining the Book Group discussion from the west coast!

Guest Preacher: Carolyn C. Hart

Carolyn is a member-in-discernment with the Potomac Association. She graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary earlier this month where she earned her Master in Divinity (M.Div.) degree. Previously, she had a long and fulfilling career in global health, most recently as Vice President of the International Division and Director of the Washington office of John Snow, Inc. (JSI), a public health consulting organization.

Knit & Crochet for Knit the Rainbow

The Chat & Craft group will hold a "pop up" event on Sunday, May 26, 9–10 A.M. and 11 A.M.-12 P.M. in the Conference Room for Knit the Rainbow, which distributes winter accessories to homeless LGBTQ+ youth in NYC and several other US cities. Please join us for any length of time to chat, craft, or receive a knitting or crochet lesson! Yarn, needles, and patterns will be available. All ages welcome! For questions, email <u>chatcraft@lrucc.org</u>.

Monday, May 20, 7 P.M.

Trinity Sunday, May 26

Sunday, May 26

Potomac Association Revival

Love to the Fourth Power: Love of God, Service, Church, and Neighbor

The Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ is holding a Revival on Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Peoples Congregational UCC. The day is a celebration of our covenant with other area UCC churches, and its theme is Love⁴: Love of God, Service, Church, and Neighbor. The event includes a wonderful opportunity to hear our new General Minister and President, Karen Georgia Thompson preach during the Potomac Association's worship service. Pastor Shelli will offer a workshop (one of many) from 11 to 11:45 a.m. More details are forthcoming, and volunteers are welcome. Volunteer to help at <u>bit.ly/Vol4Revival</u>. Register to attend (free) at <u>bit.ly/revivalregistration</u>.

Fairfax Pride Festival

On Saturday, June 1, we will share our LGBTQ+ pride at the second annual Fairfax Pride in the Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive) from 5 to 7 P.M. Our Open and Affirming Ministry will be there to represent us. We will be giving away crocheted hearts with affirming messages on them, created by our Chat and Craft Ministry, and we will have activities for the kids. At 5:30 P.M. there will be speeches and a ceremony, where Mayor Reed and other dignitaries will share. Please drop by and show your LRUCC pride!

DC Pride Parade

On Saturday, June 8, we will march in the DC Pride Parade! The parade will last from 3 to 7:30 P.M. in the Logan & Dupont Circle Neighborhoods in Washington, DC. The Rev. Jason Carson Wilson is planning the event for our Potomac Association, and more details are forthcoming as the event approaches. We are planning to have a truck and flatbed so that the event will be accessible to those who are not able to walk the route. Please let us know if you plan to join us!

Chosen Family Brunch

The Open and Affirming Ministry invites LGBTQ+ members, friends, and allies to a potluck brunch on Saturday, June 15, starting at 10:30 A.M. Join with chosen family members for food and community in the social hall. This is a purely social gathering. Bring a favorite brunch food to share and celebrate Pride Month!

Blessing of the Banned Books

On Sunday, June 16, we will have a blessing of banned books! Our Open and Affirming Ministry and Antiracism Ministry invite you to bring in and donate a banned book for a blessing during the worship service. Here are some lists to inspire you:

- pen.org/2023-banned-book-list/
- www.nypl.org/blog/2023/09/25/banned-books-week-reading-list
- <u>www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech/artistic-expression/banned-books-0</u>

These books will be placed in our Antiracism or Open and Affirming Libraries in the atrium after worship.

Saturday, June 1, 5–7 P.M.

Saturday, June 8

Sunday, June 16

Saturday, June 15, 10:30 A.M.

Saturday, June 1

Congregational Listening Session Sunday, June 2

On June 2, the congregation is invited to grab a cup of coffee and then return to the sanctuary for a Q&A session about Phase Two of our Strategic Planning Process. In Phase One, as you may recall, we revisited LRUCC's mission, vision, and values. The results of those conversations are posted on the wall in the social hall and on our website. Since then, the Strategic Planning Team has been diligently at work to analyze our current situation. In Phase Two, we have been identifying our strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities in terms of our governance, programs, finances, staffing situation, operations, and our external landscape (e.g., needs of the wider community, what other organizations are currently doing). This work has been a matter of assessing where we are now, before we turn our attention to the future in Phases Three and Four. We will send the results of Phase Two to the congregation via email and paper copies will be available on Sunday, May 26. Then we would like to receive your questions and comments on Sunday, June 2, after worship. Following our June 2 discussion, you will also receive a survey to offer your feedback—not only on what has been done in Phases One and Two, but also to think with us toward the future. Phases Three and Four will include setting our 5-year vision, goals, and strategies. The Strategic Planning Team wants your feedback and insights as we head into those forward-looking phases of the process. To recap:

- You'll receive the results of Phase Two on May 26.
- We'll meet for Q&A after worship on June 2.
- You'll receive a survey during the week of June 2 to offer your insights.
- The Strategic Planning Team, Council, and Staff will begin Phase 3 on June 23.

We hope you'll engage in these opportunities to participate in our Strategic Planning process!

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

Chat & Craft If You Want To

Chat & Craft meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 22, and will meet at Little River in Room 8 or you may also join by Zoom: bit.ly/LR-ChatCraft.

Yoga at LRUCC

Come for our yoga class led by Abigail Freeman every first and third Saturday. Abigail is experienced in teaching many forms of yoga, including Prenatal Yoga, Mommy and Me, chair yoga, and everything in between. This is a time for congregants and friends of all ages!

Meditation Group Meeting

The Little River Meditation Group meets every Sunday in Room 8 and via Zoom. All are welcome. Meetings end at 9:45 A.M. so participants can make it to worship. Questions? Contact Carolyn Yocom. Zoom: <u>bit.ly/LR-Meditation</u>.

Sundays, 9 A.M.

Wednesday, May 22, 2 P.M.

Saturday, June 1, 8:30 A.M.

Youth Events

- Today, May 19 Confirmation Sunday. We will celebrate youth who have been confirmed with a cake during social hour. We will have a **youth group meeting** in Room 7 after coffee hour until 1 P.M. We will enjoy pizza and play games.
- June 8 DC Pride Parade. The youth are invited to join the Little River group marching in the DC Pride parade. Please let Karen Kleiber know if your youth would like to attend with the youth group, and we can meet up at a metro station.

Any questions, please email youthgroup@lrucc.org.

Sunday, May 19	9:00	Meditation Group Meeting
	10:00	Sunday Worship Service (Hybrid); Nursery
		Fair Trade Sale (before & after worship service)
	11:00	Coffee Hour
	11:15	Confirmation Reception/Celebration
	11:30	BOSJ/Conference Room
	12:00	Youth Group Meeting/Room 7
Monday, May 20	1:00	Staff Meeting
	7:00	LRUCC Book Group (Online)
	7:00	Scouts
	7:30	Music Committee
Tuesday, May 21		No LRUCC Activities
Wednesday, May 22	2:00	Chat & Craft If You Want To (Hybrid)
	7:30	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, May 23	7:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 24		No LRUCC events scheduled
Saturday, May 25		No LRUCC events scheduled

LITTLE RIVER EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF MAY 19, 2024

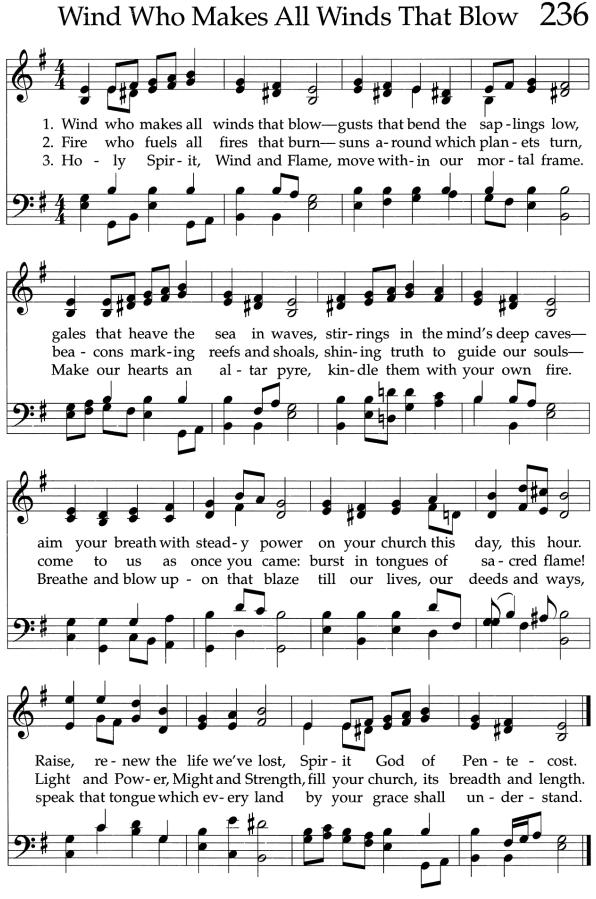
On Pentecost They Gathered

Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993

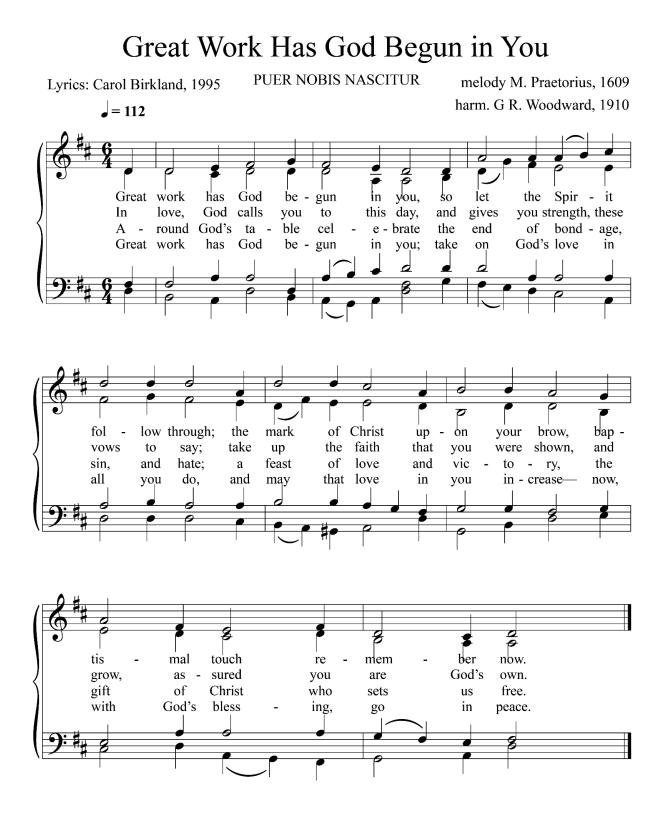


Jane Parker Huber explained that she wrote this text in 1981 "to fill a gap in current hymnody," in that "many of the hymns concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit do not mention Pentecost.'

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D. Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847



WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger, 1983 MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1879 ABERYSTWYTH 77.77D





Words Copyright © 1979 by Hope Publishing Company Tune: EBENEZER (TON-Y-BOTEL) 8.7.8.7.D. Thomas J. Williams, 1890