**International Pentecost Praise & Prayer Service**

**Hope in Christ Church**

**Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 6:30pm**

**Recognizing the cultural diversity of Whatcom County, we believe it glorifying to God and edifying to the Body of Christ to gather for worship and prayer in a service including several languages from our community.**

**What a beautiful picture of Heaven, to gather as one greatly diverse and unified redeemed people, worshipping God and seeking Him in prayer.**

**For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.**

**Habakkuk 2:14**

International Pentecost

Praise & Prayer Service

Come to Hope in Christ Church

on Pentecost Sunday (May 20th) at 6:30pm

as we gather for praise and prayer.

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Habakkuk 2:14

Hope in Christ Church

Color Guide:

ALL PEOPLE

Hope in Christ Church

Middle Eastern Friends

Iglesia Hispana

Dutch Friends

Bellingham Chinese

Jesus Gathering

Fr. Nathaniel

\*\*\*Verses to be read in your native tongue

Welcome and Introduction

Song: *Jesus King of the Nations* – Flags of Nations Processional

Call to Worship

Leader: I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice, saying,

Congregation: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Rev 7:9, 10)

Leader: Tonight our voices join this ongoing heavenly hymn of praise. In Jesus’ name, let us worship God.

Songs: *Revelation Song*

*What a Beautiful Name with Agnus Dei*

*Is He Worthy*

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1. **Lord, You are…**

God’s Challenge for His Church…

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” – Rev 4:8

“O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” -Ps 104:24

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings of His

salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods.” - I Chr. 16:23-29

“Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.” -I Chronicles 29:11

“No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power”. – Jeremiah 10:6

Our Proclamations of God’s greatness…

* Declare who God is. (You are\_\_\_\_)
* Declare God’s wonderful deeds for you individually or for the people of God corporately. (You have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

Song: *Holy Spirit You are Welcome Here*

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1. **Lord, Make Your Church Worldwide a Spirit Filled Church**

God’s Challenge to His Church…

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my

name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” – John 14:26

“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.” - I Cor. 2:12

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” - Rom. 8:16

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” - Acts 4:31

Our Response…

* Acknowledge with joy and thanksgiving that we have been born of the Spirit, sealed by the Spirit and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit
* Acknowledge that apart from the Holy Spirit, that we can’t believe the gospel and love Jesus well. Pray that the eyes of our hearts will see more of Jesus and renew our awareness of his glory and grace.
* Pray for a fresh stirring and filling of the Holy Spirit
* Pray that our hearts and minds are in tune with the Holy Spirit
* Pray that the love of Jesus will be the most compelling and propelling force in our lives; turning our whining into worship, our timidity into fearless faith, small dreams into kingdom vision, and our hesitation to risk too much into a life of gospel adventure.
* Pray for God to restore the joy of His incomparable salvation
* Pray for a renewed love for the beauty and freedom of holiness

*(Spirit Filled Prayer Points adapted from https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/scotty-smith/a-prayer-for-a-fresh-stirring-and-filling-of-the-holy-spirit/)*

Song: Iglesia Hispana

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1. **Lord, Bring Unity in the Worldwide Church**

God’s Challenge to His Church…

“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.” I Cor 1:10

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!   
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!  
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.” Ps 133:1-3

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” I Peter 3: 8

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Eph 4:3

Our Response…

* Pray that the Church would have unity amid the diversity ---loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel.
* Pray that cultural barriers would be eliminated in the Church, and that love and unity would bring a sense of “welcomeness” and acceptance as brothers and sisters in Christ
* Pray that God would help us bear with one another and forgive one another as the Lord has forgiven us
* Pray that we would see with the eyes of God, every tribe, tongue, and nation as people precious to Him…people bought with a price.
* Pray that as the Global Church is unified under the banner of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, that less important things will become peripheral and that our focus will be to declare the immeasurable Worth of Jesus!
* Pray for God to place a call on families, workplaces, communities and cities to look to our only King, Jesus Christ, who is not only the King of Kings and Lord of Lord, but also the Prince of Peace who can unify us.

SONG: “Give Us Vision” with “How Great Is Our God” - Bellingham Chinese Church

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1. **Lord, Make Us a Church who is Expectantly and Joyfully Devoted to Prayer**

God’s Challenge…

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” -John 14:12-14

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people…This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.” – Colossians 4:2

Following armor of God passage…“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.“ – Ephesians 6:18

Our Response…

* Pray for God to give great joy in joining together in prayer
* Pray that God will convict the Church in America and Canada to wake up spiritually, agree clearly, unite visibly, and pray for the next Great Spiritual Awakening to occur in our generation.
* Pray for the wisdom to know what “greater things” Jesus wants you and your church to do with him.
* Pray for the power to do the “great things” Jesus had in mind---things that will “bring glory to the Father.”
* Pray that we will commit to prayers that reach beyond personal needs and focus on Christ’s momentous kingdom concerns.
* Pray that we are impacted by prayer and that God will put his heart within us.
* Pray that we will properly utilize prayer to ignite the armor of God.

Song: The Church’s One Foundation – Herm and Ali Laninga

1. **Lord, We Pray that You Build up Your Church in Whatcom County**

God’s Challenge…

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” -Psalm 127:1

“…Pray that God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. “ – II Thess 1:11-13

“We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, “ – Col 1:9-10

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. “ – Phil 1:9-11

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.  I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. “ – Eph 1:16-17

Our Response… (I will invite congregation to break into groups of 4-6 to pray)

(Churches in our community are Hispanic Churches, Chinese Church, Ethiopian Church, Korean Church, Russian Church, First Nations Church, East Indian Church, American Church)

* Pray that a culture of discipling would form in which making disciples is viewed as an ordinary part of the Christian life.
* Pray that faithful leaders would use Scripture to train members to do the work of ministry.
* Pray that a hunger for studying the gospel would form among members so that they can guide and guard one another in it.
* Pray that the preaching of God’s Word would be biblically careful and Holy Spirit imbued.
* Pray that leaders would remain above reproach, kept from temptation, complacency, idols, and worldliness.
* Pray that the church’s songs would teach members to biblically confess, lament, and praise.
* Pray that the church’s prayers would be infused with biblical ambitions, honesty, and humility.
* Pray that our churches would grow in being distinct from the world in love and holiness, even as it engages outsider.
* Pray that members would share the gospel this week with boldness---and see more conversions!
* Pray that members would be prepared for persecution, remembering to love, not curse, their persecutors.
* Pray that the hopes for political change would be outstretched by the hope of heaven.
* Pray that giving would be faithful, as well as joyful, consistent, and sacrificial.
* Pray that more members would use their careers to take the gospel to places it’s never been.

*(Build Your Church Prayer Points adapted from https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/18-things-to-pray-for-your-church/)*

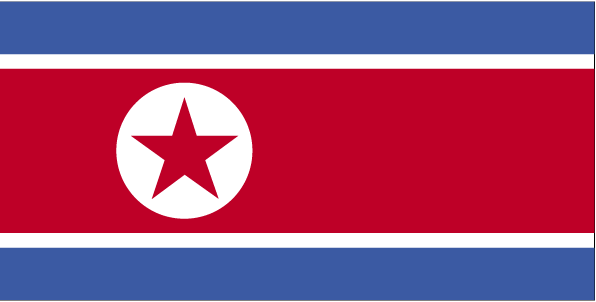
Transition Chorus: Cornerstone

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1. **Lord, We Pray for those who are part of the Persecuted Church (At this point our Middle Eastern Friends will pray for the persecuted church generally for 2-3 minutes and then we will break into country groups to pray.)**

Eritrea

* Thousands of Christians have been imprisoned in Eritrea over the last decade, some of whom still remain in prison after more than 10 years. Pray for endurance for brothers and sisters detained in horrific conditions, and ask God to give them perseverance in their faith.
* Pray for President Afwerki, that God would work in his heart and reveal the truth of the gospel.
* Tragically, the Orthodox Church in Eritrea sometimes acts as an agent of persecution against other Christians. Pray for cooperation among the Christians of Eritrea, that they would be one.
* In 2018, Eritrea embraced an end of hostility with both Ethiopia and Somalia. Thank the Lord for this amazing development and that the opening of the country to the international community to lead to a great improvement in the situation of Christians.
* Christians are being forced to join the armed forces, and Protestants, in particular, face serious problems with accessing community resources, especially social services provided by the state. Pray that God’s people who entrust themselves to the Lord and his provision.



North Korea

* Pray that new diplomatic efforts will pay dividends, and will lead to a softening of the North Korean government toward its people.
* The situation for Christians is vulnerable and precarious. They face persecution from state authorities and their non-Christian family, friends and neighbors. Pray for their protection.
* Pray for strength and courage for Christians who suffer in prisons, labor camps and remote areas, and for their families who share their punishment.
* Pray that God will prepare the underground church in North Korea to be a light for the country—and that they will be ready to share the gospel freely someday soon.



Yemen

* Pray that God would inspire forces in Yemen to solve their conflict through peaceful means.
* The instability in Yemen has created a refugee, food and healthcare crisis. Ask God to help provide food, clean water and safety to the people of Yemen.
* Eighty percent of Yemenis depend on humanitarian aid. Aid is typically channeled through the tribal and family lines, from which Christians are often disconnected. Please pray that aid will reach Christians.
* Pray that the secret believers from Muslim backgrounds will have courage and perseverance in their faith.
* Both male and female converts to Christianity married to Muslims risk divorce, including losing custody of their children.  Pray for God to draw entire families to faith at once.

Turkmenistan

* Turkmenistan is considered one of the most restrictive countries in the world. It is very common for members of Protestant churches to be regarded as followers of an alien sect aiming to depose the government—reinforcing the government’s need to control and eradicate Christians. Pray for increased freedoms in this former Soviet republic.
* Pray for believers who are former Muslims. They are fiercely pressured by families and Muslim society to return to Islam. Pray for protection and endurance.
* Pray for the safety of Christian children in Muslim-dominated schools as they face discrimination from both teachers and classmates.
* Pray that police officers and secret service members who are infiltrating churches and monitoring Christians would encounter the gospel in miraculous and Kingdom-building ways. Ask God to use their exposure to the Word to speak to their hearts.

Transition Chorus: Build My Life

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1. **Lord, We Pray that You Raise Up Workers to Proclaim Your Greatness to the Unengaged and Unreached Peoples of the Earth**

God’s Challenge…

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people…This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” - I Tim 2:1, 3, 4

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” – 2 Peter 3:9

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:16-20

Our Response…

* Thank God for those who prayed for you to come to Christ
* Pray that the “heart’s desire” of your church would be to pray for the unsaved as Jesus and Paul did (Jn 17:20, Rom 10:1)
* Commit yourself and your church to pray for persons yet-to-be-saved, knowing that “this pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved.”
* Pray that our excitement of God’s presence will move us towards the heart of God’s purpose which is that all nations will come to Him
* Pray that as we “Pray ye therefore” that we will then be moved to “Go ye therefore” into all the world
* Pray the whole earth will be filled with His glory
* Pray that workers will be raised up to complete the task to go where no one has yet gone!
* Pray for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Song: Jesus Gathering Song

Closing Blessing – Fr Nathaniel

Song: *Doxology*