

Sunday Morning Worship - Day of Pentecost

May 23, 2021

10:30am

Bold text indicates where the congregation joins in unison.

** indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able.*

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

Remember the promise of the Lord:

God will pour out the Spirit on all flesh.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness,

interceding with sighs too deep for words.

The Spirit of God renews the earth.

Bless the name of the Lord!

***Opening Prayer** (unison)

God our Creator, earth has many languages, but Your gospel proclaims Your love to all nations in one heavenly tongue. Make us messengers of the good news that, through the power of Your Spirit, all the world may unite in one song of praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,

and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;

there are sweet expressions on each face,

and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,

stay right here with us, filling us with your love;

and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;

without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived

when we shall leave this place.

***There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."***

***Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.***

Invitation to Confession

Jesus says: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God, You poured Your Spirit upon the gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of Your Spirit among us. We do not listen for Your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of Your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be Your faithful people, doing Your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Through Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of Your word and the understanding of Your Spirit so that we may be Your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Sermon

"These Old Bones"

Pastor Christina

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying,
hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***Hymn**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain:

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.***

***You moved on the waters; you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” (Refrain)***

***You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand;
and you goaded your people with a law and a land.
When they were confounded with idols and lies,
the you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (Refrain)***

***You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still.
And down in the city, you called once again
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)***

***You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. (Refrain)***

***Benediction and Sending**



Prayers for at Home This Week

Morning Household Prayer

God of newness and delight, you greet your world again with light and life. I awaken to your presence behind, before, beneath, above, and within me. I thank you for another day and ask only that you keep me so firmly in your care that I can move gracefully through all I have to do. Guard my family, my friends, and all my brothers and sisters in faith. Let me be a peacemaker today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

Good and Holy One, you have led me through this day of many encounters to the time when I may close my eyes and dream. I thank you for the people who you have sent my way today, for the work I have had to do, for the food, shelter, and safety you have given. I pray that people everywhere may have all necessary comfort and nourishment and that I may lie down in peace, resting in the trust that you are watching over all creation. I pray this in the name of the One who made Earth, called the children to come, and blows through our days with wisdom. Amen.