

FPC Interactive Worship Bulletin for May 19th, 2024

Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem. Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel.

*The traditional color for Pentecost is red, after the flames described in Acts 2:3.**

GATHERING

Prelude: FPC Bell Choir

Celtic Farewell by Linda Lamb

Fantasy on All Creatures of Our God and King, arr. Sandra Eithun

Welcome

Greetings from Glacier Presbytery: Rev. Chuck Carlson, Presbytery Leader

Call to Worship: Acts 2:1-4

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.

Let us join our voices together as we praise God our Maker and remember the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Gathering Song: Uyai Mose (Come, All You People)

Uyai mose, tinamate Mwari; uyai mose, tinamate Mwari;
uyai mose, tinamate Mwari; uyai mose zvino!

Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come now and worship the Lord!

Sung in the Shona Language from the Zimbabwe Community

PRAISING

Prayer of Adoration

Lord, on this holy day of celebration, we come before you in anticipation.

We know that we will be filled with Your grace and mercy,

that we will receive Your love and compassion,

that the presence of Your Holy Spirit will fill our hearts and our souls and our bodies.

For all this, we thank you and praise you.

Come, Holy Spirit, the Wind of God, the Breath of Life.

Come, Holy Spirit, our Advocate, our Counselor.

Come, Holy Spirit, Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit, Granter of forgiveness, Giver of peace.

Come, Holy Spirit.

May we receive the Holy Spirit in this place as we worship you together. Amen.

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us



Come, O Spi-rit, dwell a - mong us, come with Pen - te - cos - tal power;
Come, O Spi-rit, dwell a - mong us; give us words of fire and flame.

give the Church a stron-ger vi - sion, help us face each cru - cial hour.
 Help our fee - ble lips to praise You, glo - ri - fy Your ho - ly name.

Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion, Je - sus Christ, the Cor - ner - stone,
 God, all ho - ly, Son and Spi - rit, Three in One: what mys - ter - y!

still the Church is called to mis - sion
 We would sing our loud ho - san - nas

that God's love shall be made known.
 now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Janie Alford***

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
 till from heaven, You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes.
 To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word,
 from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Refrain: Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one.
 God of glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming, and to reconcile the lost,
 to redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross.
 For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side.
 Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died. *Refrain*

And the morning that You rose, all of heaven held its breath
 till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.
 And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,
 for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.
 And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.
 Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint.
 By His blood and in His name, in His freedom I am free,
 for the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me. *Refrain*
 Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood and Jason Ingram**

BELONGING

Kids on the Steps

Trinity Song

Holy Father, Son and Spirit, Holy Communion, Three-in-One.

Come, with your peace, with your invitation: bind us together in Holy Love.

Sandra McCracken**

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together.

One: On this day of Pentecost, the church is born and re-born.

The Holy Spirit is poured out and sends us out together, aflame with new life.

All: God, we pray that Your Spirit would set us free from the prisons of pettiness, jealousy, and greed.

Set us free to be Your church:

to feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked,

heal those who are sick, and befriend those who are lonely.

Fill us with Your Spirit, and make us again into Your body for the world.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: We are freed to free others.

We are forgiven to forgive others.

We are loved to love others.

All of this we find in knowing Christ, whose gracious love is poured out to us.

All: Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

FORMING

Sermon: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Dan Cravy

Spirit Gives (Principal Gift of) Faith for Common Good

-Today on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate how Jesus' disciples were gathered in Jerusalem when there came a sound like a rushing wind. How forked and fiery tongues appeared among them. How they were filled with the Holy Spirit. How they began to speak in tongues not their own, communicating in the heart languages of peoples from across the Mediterranean world. How by the power of the Spirit they shared the good news of Jesus's life for us unto death, the good news of his vindicating resurrection, and so the good news of his inauguration of the kingdom, the new commonwealth on earth as it is in heaven.

As a person, Jesus was limited physically to where he could be and go on any given day, limited in how long he could go without eating or sleeping, limited in who he could speak with or reach. But the Spirit of God whom Jesus had promised them – the Comforter, Counselor, *Spirit* of Christ invisible among them – could be present to all people, at all times, in all places.

So on Pentecost we who follow Christ celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, bringing disciples alive to bear witness to the resurrection and reign of Jesus. *The **Holy Spirit** whom we worship with the Father and the Son as the Third Person of the Trinity – Three in One and One in Three – the **Holy Spirit** is **God invisible, among us and within us even now, to bring to bring to completion all that Christ began.***

Today we're going to flash forward perhaps twenty years from the Pentecost of wind and fire. We're going to open once again this letter that Paul wrote to a young church in Corinth. There's something remarkably redemptive about the struggles our sisters and brothers faced in first-century Corinth, as the Spirit continues to speak to us through them. And in essence, the church in Corinth was struggling to *be* Christ's church. They were struggling to *be* the new community empowered by God's Spirit.

I am going to be reading from 1 Corinthians 12.1-7. It's the NRSV version. (Glad for you to follow in the Bible in rack in front of you or under your seat. Order of New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians...)

-12 Now concerning spiritual [things] brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. ² You know that when you were gentiles [this is back before the world was upended, before you came to faith in Jesus, and such categories fell away] you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Let's pray: *Lord, we ask that by the power of your Holy Spirit, we might receive today and again and again the gift of our faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

-Last week, Austin Graef and I signed Bibles for our high school graduates. It was an emotional experience for me, thinking of my own son's graduation in a couple weeks. I was writing in the Bibles of students whom we've watched grow up here. And I did pretty well with having something brief to say until I came to Cazden's Bible. Which kind of stopped me short. What do you write in the

Bible of your own son? What words of encouragement might continue to speak through times of difficulty, doubt and delight? So I was grateful Austin had already gotten there before me. He wrote four words to Caz that really said everything I wanted to say:

Remember who you are. //

-This young church in Corinth was struggling in so many ways. They were swimming against the strong current of their whole culture. As are we. And it's like Paul's writing to his own kids. Like he's sending a note of encouragement to stick in their Bible: *Don't forget the Spirit. Remember who you are.*

'Look,' he says. 'You're struggling. Conflict. Competition. Status-seeking. Sexual immorality. Disregard for one another. Drunkenness. Disorder in worship. You're taking one another to court?! You're posturing over who belongs to the 'truly in' group of believers?! You're puffing yourselves up over who has the most valuable spiritual gifts?! Over who *matters* the most?!

'These struggles?' says Paul. 'They look just like the *un*-Spiritual world. They look just like everyone else. I don't want you to ignore the gift that's been poured into your hearts! I don't want you to misunderstand the power of the Spirit of God dwelling within you. I don't want you to forget what it means to belong to Jesus.'

So he reminds them of what the Lord has done in them. Of the gospel. Of the gift of the Spirit. He writes: ² You know that when you were gentiles [before you came to faith in Jesus] you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.

He's saying: 'Recall how were exhausting yourselves in the service of false gods: Sacrificing to lumps of metal, stone and wood. Bowing to things less than God. Placating objects of superstition out of fear and habit. Working yourselves up to a fervor, a thrill, an ecstasy. Looking for a religious experience. But these gods that you chased after were mute. They had nothing to say to your life. No flaming tongue to proclaim good news. No word of living hope poured into your heart.'

Jerry Sittser taught us that the Roman empire embraced every foreign god. They pulled every idol into the Pantheon to placate it. But here's the thing. When everything is true, *nothing* is true. And when *nothing* is true, what rises to the top is the *status quo*. Because there's no preeminent authority to challenge it. There's no Truth that stands superior. So the status quo holds sway. And with the status quo, with the way of the world, What matters most is Me. Looking Out for Number One. Pleasure. Power. Popularity. Dog-Eat-Dog.

And as Austin captured it so clearly last week, 'making Me what matters most' rather than 'making Christ what matters most' – it's like biting into a plastic apple when you could taste the real one.

'So remember,' writes Paul, '*that worldly emptiness* is the way things were *before*, back when you identified merely as gentiles, back when you were carried away by false gods. But everything has changed. *Don't forget the Spirit. Remember who you are.* In Christ you've been made new.

My friend Chris helped me think about what it means for you and me to bow to idols. He suggests that every identity we place ahead of our belonging to Jesus Christ is a false god. That our idols can often be readily exposed by the identities we embrace (even and often especially the ones that receive approval from our peers): Wealthy. Athletic. Popular. Failure. Strong. Attractive. Damaged. Smart. Wise. White. Straight. Professional. Funny. Addicted. Adventurous. Democrat. Educated. Married. Presbyterian. Skeptic. American. Even Mother.

Some identities are false: like 'hopeless,' or 'loner,' or 'in control.' Some identities are merely meant to be secondary: like 'student' or 'father,' or even 'Christian.' But every identity we place *before* our identity in Christ is an idol. And every time we break the commandment to love God first, we also break the commandment to love our neighbors. Hence, every failure of discipleship in the church at Corinth or the church at Missoula is in some means an act of idolatry. Of putting another identity first.

It made me wonder. Is there an identity you and I are tempted to embrace that throws our allegiance out of whack? Is there a sense of self in you or me that should be secondary, but that we've succumbed to the temptation to place first?

Friends, says Paul, speaking not only to the Corinthian church, but down through the ages, 'Don't forget the power of God's Spirit alive within you! *Remember who you are.*'

³... I want you to understand [he writes] that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and *no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.*

He puts it simply. It is the *Spirit's* work to fill us with faith for the journey. It is by the Spirit that put our trust in Jesus, that we find in him our primary identity. The Holy Spirit, the giver of life, draws us to our true Lord. We need faith more than oxygen. And the Spirit breathes into us faith in Jesus.

By contrast, any spirit at work within us that diminishes or rejects Jesus carries us away to a false identity, a false self, gasping for the air we need to live. To stray from the Spirit is to forget who we truly are.

And what is it that the Spirit inspires in us? The oldest, simplest affirmation of the Christ follower:

Jesus is Lord.

You might think of seminary as a peaceful place of prayer, study and rich fellowship. But for me seminary was also a disruption and reappraisal of everything I had come to hope. And so during my years of taking classes that removed me from my Christian community and took my Bible apart – as I walked through difficulty and doubt as well as delight – I kept a 3x5 index card in my desk drawer that said only this: 'Simple theology: Jesus is Lord.'

To affirm that Jesus is Lord is to claim that our God was born in *person* into the limited humanity, into the culture, into the religious and political history of first century Palestine as a Jewish man whose human heart was broken by divine love. That in this man Jesus, God is *personal*.

To affirm that Jesus is Lord is to claim that Jesus is not only some historical figure, not merely a manifestation of God's grace and truth to his Jewish disciples, but that Jesus is for us and with us now. That in this man Jesus, God is not only personal, but *present*.

To affirm that Jesus is Lord is to claim not only that the One revealed to Moses at the burning bush, the One whose name was considered too sacred to say aloud, that the G-d of Israel has *become* Jesus Christ and that He, not Caesar; that He, not the powers of the earthly or spiritual realm; that He has resurrected, ascended, and reigns, superseding all powers, demanding all allegiance. That in this man Jesus, God is not only personal and present, but *preeminent*.

Paul wishes to reawaken simple theology in those who would be Christ's Church. Jesus is Lord. Personal, present, preeminent. Our primary identity.

Three words that follow the four Austin wrote in Cazden's Bible for times of difficulty, doubt and delight: Remember who you are. Jesus is Lord.

-I've told you about my professor of Old Testament, Patrick Miller. As his children walked out the door with the keys on any given Friday or Saturday night, he told us he'd always cry out: 'Remember, you're a Miller.' And what was he after? He was a Dad encouraging his children to recall their family's faith, hope and love and choose to be their better selves.

What difficulties are we navigating? What doubt?

Often it is our sorrows that the Spirit uses to nudge us toward our central faith in Christ.

What if the Holy Spirit wants to remind you who you are today? To empower you to hold on to your faith in Jesus?

Let's take a moment and share, if you wish, out loud.

How is the Spirit at work in your life, our life? Or What is the Word of the Spirit you hear today?

Song of Response: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Ho - ly Spi - rit, liv - ing Breath of God, breathe new
Ho - ly Spi - rit, come a - bide with - in, may Your
Ho - ly Spi - rit, from cre - a - tion's birth, giv - ing
life in - to my will - ing soul. Let the pres - ence of the
joy be seen in all I do. Love e - nough to cov - er
life to all that God has made, show Your pow - er once a -
ris - en Lord come re - new my heart and make me whole.
ev - 'ry sin, in each thought and deed and at - ti - tude.
gain on earth, cause Your church to hun - ger for Your ways.



Cause Your word to come a - live in me;
 Kind - ness to the great - est and the least,
 Let the fra - grance of our prayers a - rise;



give me faith for what I can-not see, give me pas-sion for Your
 gen - tle - ness that sows the path of peace. Turn my striv-ings in - to
 lead us on the road of sac - ri - fice, that in u - ni - ty the



pu - ri - ty; Ho - ly Spir - it breathe new life in me.
 works of grace; Breath of God show Christ in all I do.
 face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty**

STEWARDING

Invitation to Offering

When God pours out the Spirit upon us, when God chooses to give God’s very Spirit to dwell among and within us that we might live Wholly (Holy) Spiritual lives, God gives us the Counselor, Comforter and Advocate; God gives us the Strengthener and Sanctifier; God pours into our hearts the Spirit of Mercy, the Spirit of Grace, the Giver of Life. God empowers us for faith, that we might manifest God-given gifts for the common good, the chief among them our faith, hope, and love, inspired by no less than the very Spirit of Christ.

Let us live, then, friends, not for the hollow values of the world, but for the life-giving love of the Spirit. Let us make our Spiritual offering to the Lord.

Musical Offering: Joyous Spirit

Arr. Valerie Stephenson***

Prayers of the People

One: Come, Holy Spirit:

All: Fill the earth.

Let us join our hearts and voices together in prayer, hearing the words “Come, Holy Spirit,” and responding with “Fill the earth.” Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit: Fill the earth.
 God our Parent, your Spirit makes us your children.
 You set us free from fear
 and promise us the inheritance of eternal life in Christ.
 We long for the fulfillment of Christ’s glory,
 the revelation of God’s children for all creation.
 We pray for this creation, sitting between the frustration of what is
 and the coming birth of what is to come.
 Make your hope visible in us,
 and make our lives a force for the renewal of creation.
 Come, Holy Spirit: Fill the earth.

God of all hope,
 we pray for what we have not seen,
 and we call on you for the needs that are closest to our hearts.
 Heal, comfort, and give hope.
 Come, Holy Spirit: Fill the earth.

God of compassion,
we pray even for what we don't know.
Let your Spirit search deep within our hearts
and pray for us with groans too deep for words...
Come, Holy Spirit: Fill the earth.

Sovereign God,
gather all things and all events
together in your love,
for the good of your beloved people
and your sacred creation.
Guard and guide our future.
Come, Holy Spirit: Fill the earth.

Fill the earth with the image of Christ,
through whom and in whom all things were created,
by whom all things are redeemed. Amen.

SENDING

Sending Song: Hear the Call of the Kingdom

Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King;
Let His song rise within you as a fragrant offering
Of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem all who trust in His unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom to be children of light
With the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ;
Walking justly before Him, loving all that is right, that the life of Christ may shine through us.

*Refrain: King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name.*

Hear the call of the kingdom to reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross;
Bringing peace, and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come,
Let the nations put their trust in Him. *Refrain*
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend**

Benediction

Postlude: Sanna, Sannanina (Holy, Most Holy Lord)

Arr. Sandra Eithun***

Leading in Worship This Morning:

Liturgist: Martha Ripley
Kids on the Steps: Katie Adams
Sermon: Dan Cravy
Musicians: Austin Graef, Cheyenne Brown, Emma Thackston,
Joselyn Thomsen, Lydia Garrick, Madison Spencer
Slide, Sound and Video Techs: Char Davis,
Zane Reneau and Sean Barry

FPC Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Dan Cravy
Worship Director: Emma Thackston
Children, Youth and Family Director: Austin Graef
Church Operations Manager: Becky Kress
Program Support Administrator: Jo Ruby
Church Secretary: Haleigh Adair
Bell Choir Director: Tomi Kent
Parish Associates: Rev. Janet Malone and Rev. Bob Schurr
Preaching Pastor, Blackfoot Church of the Potomac: Natalie Mauer

*From the Worship Sourcebook

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Prayer List

Ongoing Prayer Support: Victor Schlimgen, Eva Tsosie and son Chaske, Tom Tucker,
Sheryl Tegelberg, Lou Power, Kelley Nicholson, Peggy Schalk, Betty Winchell

Prayers for Health and Healing: Bob Maitland, Haleigh Adair, Carl Miller,
Annabelle Olds, John MacDonald, Pam Dubois, Janet Malone, Bob Davis, Jill Gilliam

Condolences: The family of Jay Rutherford