

Sunday May 23, 2021
I Will Put My Spirit Within You, and You Shall Live

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Here we gather for song and scripture, seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Here we gather to retell the ancient tales and wonder how God's story continues to unfold.**

Leader: Today we tell the story of Pentecost, the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples,

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **And we ask ourselves where we see the Holy Spirit present our world today.**

Leader: Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again. We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story, and inspire others to see the Holy at work in the world.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **And we will ask ourselves if we are ready to share our own stories.**

Opening Prayer **Unison** *(Out loud, but muted)*

We join with other worshippers in this moment with all our questions, doubts, wonders, and find here an invitation to experience something ancient and something new.

May we be open to the Spirit.

May we be open to learning and being inspired by the presence of others.

May we grow in faith, hope, and love individually and together.

Today we will hear this story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again. Amen.

Hymn # 84: This is the Day

(Please see separate attachment for the score)

- 1) This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

- 2) This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.
- 3) This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came.

Prayer of Confession Unison (*Out loud, but muted*)

Spirit of God, our prayers often ask You to be present in our lives and in our world. But we confess that we can be surprised as You show up. We remember the stories of You appearing as a burning bush, and then Moses and Sarah leaving everything familiar behind. We remember the stories of You kindling the imagination of the prophets, and then each putting their lives on the line. We remember the stories of You sparking action within the early Church, compelling them all to embrace something completely foreign and new. We confess, Dear Spirit, we are afraid You will call us to move outside our comfort zones. We are afraid You will kindle a passion within us we will be unable to ignore. We are afraid that You will rearrange our lives beyond recognition. Forgive us for the fears that have been holding us back from inviting You truly into our lives ... We pray hoping, yearning, risking, and venturing. Amen.

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved people of God, find comfort in the news that the Spirit of God may be a formidable force, but She moves alongside people and equips those who are open to the work ahead. Peter, known more for his denial and disbelief than his bravery, suddenly had courage with the Spirit alongside him. The disciples, not known for being gifted communicators, suddenly broke down barriers with the Spirit alongside them. Beloved Ones, do not be afraid. Remain curious. Be open to the surprise. Celebrate that God is indeed about to do a new thing with you.

Passing of the Peace (*unmute for Passing of the Peace*)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NIV)

37:1 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.

37:2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

37:3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

37:6 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."

37:7 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.

37:8 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.

37:9 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."

37:10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

37:11 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.'

37:12 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.

37:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

37:14 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.

Pentecost Reading

Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)

2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2:2 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.

2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

2:6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

2:7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

2:8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

2:9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

2:11 Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

2:13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

2:14 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.

2:15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

2:16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

2:17 '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.

2:18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

2:19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

2:20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

2:21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Musical Interlude

Sermon: I Will Put My Spirit Within You, and You Shall Live

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People (unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

Hymn #508 Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)
(sung muted but together)

**Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;
The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.
O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer Unison (*Out loud, but muted*)

Offering Invitation

As people of God, we are called by the Spirit to continue the work of Jesus and the disciples who sought to build up beloved community. We are each equipped by the Spirit with particular skills, gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences to continue that work. In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you have been gifted with and are open to offering this day to bring about God's beloved community on Earth?

Offering and Dedication **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

In these moments of quiet and reflection: with what is it that each of us have been gifted? How is our faith community gifted in ways that can be a blessing? Through the power of the Holy Spirit among us, we open ourselves in love and generosity as an offering to God's beloved community on Earth!

Benediction **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

**That Pentecost day, with the Spirit in the air,
the disciples were suddenly clear about their stories
and their intention to share their stories with the world.
Maybe it was the rushing wind that had jolted them out of complacency.
Maybe it was the dancing tongues of fire that landed on each one that ignited
them to action.
Maybe it was the hope that comes with having the Companion, the Advocate,
nearby.
The disciples found their authentic voices
and soon after discovered they had a story to share with the world.
We will go forth into this day, with the Spirit in the air,
to share our stories of God's love with the world.
In the name of the Jesus who shows us the way;
we go in the name of the Holy Spirit,
who is with us now and always.
God really is with us! Into the light of God,
Let us venture into this light and trust Spirit's presence! Amen.**