



May 23, 2021

Pentecost Sunday

A Communion Service



Words of Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Richardson

Preparation for Communion for those participating at home and/or online via Zoom... Please prepare ahead by having a slice bread, bun, pita, or rice cake to, and a cup of juice – perhaps grape or cranberry – or wine, with or without alcohol, or coffee, tea, or water.

Candle Lighting & Centering...

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." Howard Thurman

Let us receive the inspiration of the Spirit, and the light of Christ.

Opening Song ~ *There's a Warm Wind Blowing*, composed, sung and recorded by David Goodwin, accompanied by Barbara-Lynn Goodwin

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/2d586d74-4ff6-470b-bac9>

[2746b7ca242d/downloads/There_s%20a%20Warm%20Wind%20Blowing%20.mp3?ver=1588692185038](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/2d586d74-4ff6-470b-bac9/2746b7ca242d/downloads/There_s%20a%20Warm%20Wind%20Blowing%20.mp3?ver=1588692185038)

Call to Worship *(inspired by Ezekiel 37:1-14)*

The Spirit of God has brought us here.

God has set us down here, though our bones are tired.

Can these dry bones live?

Yes! The Breath of God will revive us!

The Word of God will awaken us!

Today, we come together to experience new life.

Let us give thanks to the Wild and Wondrous;

Life-Giving Spirit of God!

<http://worshipcloset.com/day-pentecost-words-worship-year-b/>

Breath Prayer *(inspired by Romans 8:22-27)*

The Apostle Paul tells us the Spirit prays for us "with sighs too deep for words". Through the Life-Giving Breath of God, we are given all that we need. Let us breathe deeply - inhaling the good gifts that God provides and exhaling all the things that we need to release.

Let us breathe in strength. *(Pause for breath...)* And, let us exhale our exhaustion. *(Pause...)*

Let us breathe in freedom. *(Pause...)* And, let us exhale all that holds us back. *(Pause...)*

Let us breathe in a new sense of direction. *(Pause...)*

And, let us exhale the paths we no longer want to use. *(Pause...)*

Let us breathe in hope. *(Pause for breath...)* And, let us exhale self-doubt. *(Pause...)*

Let us breathe in unconditional love. *(Pause...)* And, let us exhale distrust and hate. *(Pause...)*

Holy Spirit let us feel the mighty rush of your presence in this place and time.

Blow away our fears and worries and help us to breathe in your gifts of new life. Amen.

<http://worshipcloset.com/day-pentecost-words-worship-year-b/>

Hymn: *I Feel the Winds of God* #625 VU

Words: Jessie Adams 1907 © 1933 National Adult School Organization

Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Oxford University Press.

Video version: Led by the Virtual Pacific Spirit Chamber Choir With Bryn Nixon, organ

<https://youtu.be/GZiG4fEv0io>

A Reading from Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's prophecy restores life to the valley of dry bones.

Video version: The Dream of Ezekiel, Linnea Good, biblical

storyteller. https://youtu.be/MSY_xcBbgt0



Responsive Reading based on Acts chapter 2

The Spirit transforms the disciples.

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.

Spirit: Rushing Wind

Two thousand years ago,

a band of disciples felt lost and leaderless.

Their leader, rabbi and teacher had been executed.

They held to the hope and joy of their Easter faith,

but they also questioned:

What now?

What next?

Where do we go from here?

In the story of Pentecost, the spirit moves amongst these disciples like the wind.

The disciples were energized, strengthened, and mobilized.

In the pattern of Pentecost, the winds of God blow us out of apathy, isolation, and despondency, help us to make changes, enable us to take action.

**Holy Spirit,
come like the wind.**

**Breath of God,
renew us.**

**Energizing Spirit,
bring us conviction and strength.**

Acts 2: 3

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

Spirit: Tongues of Flame

Like a fire,

a conviction took hold of their hearts.

The Spirit was moving in the disciples.

They were able to understand in new ways,

with deep passion,

and with strongly felt faith.

Where once there was despair and apathy and disillusionment, there was now hope and energy and meaning.

The Spirit's fire was burning.

**Holy Spirit,
warm our lives with your presence.
Fire of God,
enflame our commitment.
Spirit of Passion,
be born anew in your people.**

Acts 2: 5-8

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?

Spirit: Unity in Diversity

On the day of Pentecost,
People from many lands
And of many languages came together.
And there was a miracle of understanding and unity.

**Holy Spirit,
help us to listen to one another.
Spirit of Pentecost,
grant us the ability to respect each other.
God of Possibilities,
enable understanding in our midst.**

Written and shared by Ted Dodd.

Minister's Message/Reflection

The Sacrament of Communion

<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-progressive-sacrament-of-holy-communion/>

God seeks to be in communion with us, and wills that we be in communion with one another. Through the Christ in Jesus, God drew closer to us by living among us with all the desires and temptations of being human, and showed us that we each have the power to overcome wrongdoing by the inspiration of our spiritual lives and the discipline of our physical lives; thereby effecting the Christ in us. Jesus represented the individual model of how we each can do this; and in calling to his side the disciples and followers in his way of love and peace, many of whom were ostracized by the wider society, he revealed how to model this in our community here on Earth. Reminding us symbolically of this union of body and spirit, Jesus took a loaf of bread, broke it like we are often broken in our relationships with one another, and showed us the way to reconciliation by asking us to share our bread with one another in remembrance of his own example.

Through the broken bread, we participate in and become the body of Christ in the world.

In like manner, Jesus took the cup filled with the fruit of the vine, the vine that sustains us and links us to one another, and the fruit that nourishes the spirit of virtue that abides within and between each of us, and asked us to drink of that same spirit of loving-kindness and uniting harmony that was in him.

Through the cup of blessing, we participate in and become the new life of Christ in the world.

The bread and fruit we partake nourishes us that we may nourish others. Through this sacrament of Holy Communion, we affirm that we are committed to Christ's way of love and peace by our motives, thoughts, actions, and practices in this world. We acknowledge that we are one community made by God, and that we must consciously choose, day by day, to be in right relationship with God, each other, and our sacred values.

Therefore, we dedicate ourselves, individually and collectively, to make the Body and Spirit of Christ real in this world, here and now, and throughout our life as a community of the faithful. What we symbolize here, we make real by our service when we go forth to serve.

Prayers of the People & The Prayer Jesus Taught

Invitation

In the spirit of Christ, we're invited to share this sacrament designed to bridge all differences through extravagant welcome, heartfelt openness, and mutual loving-kindness. At the table of remembrance, we recognize our responsibility to live in love and peace with one another and all creation; one Holy Communion of Body and Spirit throughout this good earth.

Peace be with you,

And also with you.

Breaking/Pouring/Sharing the Bread & Cup

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life

We receive this bread, broken, scattered, and made whole.

(Pause to partake)

The Drink we pour is the Drink of Love

We drink this cup, thirsty, longing, willing to be poured out.

(Pause to partake)

Commissioning:

Celebrate in the Spirit and...

God's joy becomes our joy,

God's purpose becomes our purpose,

God's compassion becomes our compassion,

and God's love finds direction and fulfillment

in our loving words and actions.

Don't hold back! Celebrate in the Spirit!

Written by David Sparks. Reprinted, with permission, from page 32 of *gathering Pentecost 1, 2021*.

Parting Hymn ~ *Dance with the Spirit* #156 MV

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Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwMiZ5NEvil&ab_channel=GoldenEarsUnitedChurch

