

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

May 19, 2024

PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Noella Sama

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Here in This Place (Gather Us In)”

GTG #401

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All together in one place;
They heard the rush of a violent wind;
It filled the entire house.
Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each of them;
They were filled with the Holy Spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, you pour out the Holy Spirit upon us and fill your church with power. We thank you for sending your Spirit to to kindle faith and lead us into all truth and empowering us to proclaim the living Christ to every nation. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

All who believe in Jesus Christ have been given the very breath of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of refreshing and of power. You are blessed and empowered. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING #1 Ezekiel 37:1 – 14

ANTHEM “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove” SJU Chancel Choir
(Isaac Watts; Joe Cox and Jody Lindh)

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, with all your quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love in these cold hearts of ours.

See how we trifle here below, fond of our earthly toys;
Our souls, how heavily they go, to reach eternal joys.

In vain we tune our formal songs, in vain we strive to rise;
Hosannas languish on our tongues, and our devotion dies.

SCRIPTURE READING #2 Acts 2:1 – 4

SCRIPTURE READING #3 John 15:26 – 27

TIME WITH

YOUNG DISCIPLES RUAH: PUT MORE GROWL IN IT Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE “I CAUSE BREATH TO ENTER YOU,
AND YOU SHALL LIVE” Pastor Steve Nofel

PASTORAL PRAYER The Lord’s Prayer

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SONG
OF REFLECTION

“Spirit of the Living God”

GTG #288

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Dear God, you have blessed each of us with gifts to serve and share, Most Generous God. May our offerings be used to further your Kin-dom and build your beloved community. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

GTG #66

Refrain:
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Refrain

Jordan River, chilly and cold,
it chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track.
It runs to heaven and then right back.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

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. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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.'

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

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." 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. 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. 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.'

Acts 2:1 – 4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

John 15:26 – 27

²⁶ 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

