



I will
put my
spirit
within
you,
and you
shall live...

Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Day of Pentecost
May 23, 2021 – 11:00 AM

Congregational responses indicated in bold.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: The Spirit blows life through us all.

P: We gather in the renewing life the Spirit gives to us.

L: Let us then worship with great joy,
and celebrate the new life among us.

P: We bring praise and song, joy and laughter before God!
Let the world hear our praises!

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Gracious God, Living, Eternal Spirit, we thank you that you seek us in tender loving care, lest any be lost. Help us, in the same way, to reach out toward those who may feel alienated or excluded from the Christian community. Send your Spirit upon us, that when we speak the word of your love, people may hear and understand in their language as on that Pentecost day so long ago; for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

“COME, O SPIRIT, DWELL AMONG US”

EBENEZER

*Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us;
come with Pen-te-cos-tal power;
give the church a strong-er vi-sion;
help us face each cru-cial hour.
Built up-on a firm foun-da-tion,
Je-sus Christ, the Cor-ner-stone,
still the church is called to mis-sion
that God's love shall be made known.*

*We would raise our al-le-lu-ias
for the grace of yes-ter-years;
for to-mor-row's un-known path-way,
hear, O Lord, our hum-ble prayers.
In the church-'s pil-grim jour-ney
you have led us all the way;
still in pres-ence move be-fore us,
fire by night and cloud by day.*

*Come, O Spir-it, dwell a-mong us;
give us words of fire and flame.
Help our fee-ble lips to praise you,
Glo-ri-fy your ho-ly name.
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it,
Three in One: what mys-ter-y!
We would sing our loud ho-san-nas
now and through e-ter-ni-ty.*

Call to Confession

Let us call on the name of the One who invites us
to speak the truth about ourselves and our relationships
and promises to show us mercy.

Prayer of Confession (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: The breath of the Spirit does not abandon us,
though sometimes we choose the rush of other winds.

**P: In the winds of trade and academics,
the winds of fortune or poverty,
the winds of controversy and activism,
the winds of anxiety and despair,
we forget why we are and whose we are.**

L: Our confusion keeps us from recognizing the Spirit
that blows within each of us and spreads to all –
often because we do not expect the Spirit.

**P: It seems easier to extinguish a spark
than to give ourselves to the transforming fire,
as witnesses for a new order.**

L: The Spirit of what is holy incites us to witness.

P: But accepting the challenge of seeking and acting sometimes seems too hard for us in our weakness.

L: The Spirit fuses us in loving community with energies to empower our world.

P: But we tire of setting priorities, of being effective, of being intentional about the work God calls us to do in the world.

Where is the Spirit's wind and fire then?

L: Let us lift up our individual joys and sorrows, successes and defeats, as an act of accountability for our lives and the life of our world, and as an act of awareness of the presence of the Spirit's wind and fire in all of life.

P: May God be with us,

L: And with our spirits.

Sung Response **“SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD”**

LIVING GOD

Spir-it of the liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir-it of the liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir-it of the liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Assurance of Pardon

By faith and grace we know that whenever we get together again we will be refreshed by the Spirit moving with us, and by God's Word given to us in Jesus Christ.

Within this hope, we move forward to the future again, affirming the Christ in ourselves and in each other.

Sung Response **“HELELUYAN”**

NATIVE AMERICAN

He-le-lu-yan, he-le-lu-yan: he-le, he-le-lu-yan;

He-le-lu-yan, he-le-lu-yan; he-le, he-le-lu-yan.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, come again.

As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused the people, come to us now to fill our ears with the sound of your breath, fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other, fill our hearts with your good Word. Amen.

Responsive Readings from Scripture (*L = Leader, P = People*)

Wisdom Psalm 104:24-34 (*God the Creator and Provider*)

L: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**P: In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

L: Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

**P: There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.**

L: These all look to you to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**P: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.**

L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

**P: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.**

L: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**P: May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.**

Readings from Scripture

Prophet Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*The Valley of Dry Bones*)

History Acts 2:1-21 (*The Coming of the Holy Spirit*)

Sermon

“Holy Spirit: Breath and Fire”

The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

Affirmation of Faith

*Taken from The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

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!"

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

With the words "Hear us, O God"
you are invited to respond: "your mercy is great".

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

In gratitude for all that you have done for us, Holy God, we pray:
For the people of God in every land;
for those who continually teach the faith;
for witnesses who by their example show your steadfast love;
for all who are estranged from the church;
and for the strength to walk in your ways
and observe your command;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For nations, communities, and families torn by violence;
for leaders and protesters, for managers and visionaries;
for dictators and peacemakers;
for the allies of our nation and for our enemies;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For Earth and its riches;
for soil and wetlands, trees, bushes,
rivers and lakes, oceans and air;
and for all the peoples who inhabit this great creation;
for the ability to choose life for all creatures
and to honor the welfare of generations to come;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For all people who are victims of injustice;
for those who are unemployed or underemployed;
for those living on the streets of our cities;
for everyone affected by divorce;
for people struggling with addiction, anger, fear, or illness;
for all who have asked this congregation for prayer;
for those we name now aloud or in our hearts;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For this community of faith;
for those who come to worship every week
and those who cannot come;
for the young and the old;
for newcomers and long-familiar faces;
for the newly baptized in every land;
for those who are seeking to know you;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For all else that this assembly is concerned with today,
named aloud or in our hearts;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Thanksgiving for all the saints who served you in life
and whose proclamation of the gospel
continues to renew the church;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your promises, we entrust all those
whose needs are known to us today
and those whose needs are only known to you.
Grant peace to all, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

The Holy Spirit was sent to increase our compassion
and to make us glad to spread good news
by caring for those in need.

May you enter into the discipline of giving
as a work of the Holy Spirit within you.

Prayer of Dedication

God of mercy, we give you thanks for all that your bounty creates.

The gifts we bring today acknowledge our debt to you
and our intent to relieve others of their burdens.

Bless what we offer and bless those who will be shown
deeds of power through them; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn **“LIKE THE MURMUR OF THE DOVE’S SONG”** BRIDEGROOM

*Like the mur-mur of the dove’s song,
like the chal-lenge of her flight,
like the vig-or of the wind’s rush,
like the new flame’s ea-ger might:
Come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.*

*To the mem-bers of Christ’s bod-y,
to the branch-es of the Vine,
to the church in faith as-sem-bled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.*

*With the heal-ing of di-vi-sion,
with the cease-less voice of prayer,
with the power of love and wit-ness,
with the peace be-yond com-pare:
Come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.*

Benediction

Let us go now as Spirited people,
powerful as the wind in doing God's will,
energetic as fire in extending the love of Christ.
Be builders of understanding and makers of peace. Amen.

Sung Response **“COME O HOLY SPIRIT, COME”**

Come, O Ho-ly Spir-it, come;
Come, al-might-y Spir-it, come;
Come, come, come.

Postlude

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Hymn Leader: Dianne Griffith

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”

Text: Janie Alford, 1979

Music: Thomas John Williams, 1890

Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company

“Spirit of the Living God”

Text: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Music: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Text & Music © 1935 Birdwing Music

(admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

“Heleluyan”

Text: Native American (Muscogee)

Transcribed by Charles Webb, 1989

Music: Transcription © 1989

by The United Methodist Publishing House

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1982, alt.

Music: Peter Cutts, 1969

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

“Come, O Holy Spirit, Come”

Text: Nigerian song; English trans. I-to Loh, 1986
Music: Nigerian melody, taught by Samuel Solanke;
transcr. I-to Loh, 1986

English Trans. and Music Transcr. © 1995

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