

Pentecost (Homecoming) Sunday  
Sacrament of Holy Communion & Reception of New Members  
May 23, 2021

**PRELUDE**      *Holy Spirit, Descend on Us Today* (Marks)      **CANDLELIGHTING**

**WESTMINSTER CHIMES**

**GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**                              *We Have Come into His House* (Sing 2 times)

We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him.

We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him.

We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship Christ the Lord.

Worship Him - Christ The Lord.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist 1:      Listen, can you hear the wind?

**All:**                      *Come, Holy Spirit; come!*

Liturgist 2:      Look, can you see the dancing flames?

**All:**                      *Come, Holy Spirit; come!*

Liturgist 1:      Do you see the visions?

Can you dream the dreams?

**All:**                      *Come, Holy Spirit; come!*

Liturgist 2:      Come let Pentecost become real in our lives this morning.

Liturgist 1:      Come and worship our God who sends the Spirit to touch us and transform us into Pentecost people.

**All people:**      *Come, Holy Spirit; come!*

**OPENING PRAYER & CONFESSION**

**All:**                      *Spirit of God, we long to be open to your presence in the church and in our lives. Fill us with your wind and fire, that we might be enlivened again. Help us hear the words of scripture today, as if for the first time, that they might touch us anew. But we've heard it so many times before. It is so familiar; we've ceased to be amazed and surprised or filled with excitement. Forgive us for our complacency. Let the flames of passion dance in our lives and resurrect our dried-up spirits once more. Give us visions and dreams for which you long, that we might begin to live them into reality. Come, Holy Spirit, come! Help us to be your Pentecost people. Come into our worship, into our church, into our very selves. Amen.*

**HYMN**                                      *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*                                      **Last Page of Bulletin**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Pastor:              God has promised to send us the Spirit, that we might know fully God's presence in the world and in our lives. Know that the Spirit of forgiveness and understanding flows over us this day and always.

**All:**                      *Amen!*

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**HYMN**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*With exaltation*

1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-MEN.

**FIRST READING**

*Dancing in the Valley*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

**SECOND READING**

*Holy Chaos*

Acts 2:1-21

**SERMON**

*Rise & Dream*

Rev. Laura Bair

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

## A CELEBRATION & BLESSING OF CHURCH MINISTRY

### RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTRY

Pastor: We invite to come forward all who wish to unite with us in this household of faith. Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are all received into the church through the Sacrament of Baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of this family of Christ. By our ministry and by the Holy Spirit, they have been led to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts the Holy Spirit bestows upon them.

### QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: In the presence of the gathered congregation, I ask: Do you desire to unite with this family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates: I do.**

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Candidates: I do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ, as best as you are able?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to grow in the Christian faith, to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, Starview United Church of Christ, sharing regularly in the worship of God and sharing in the work and ministry, as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

### QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Friends, do you profess Jesus as the center and cornerstone of your faith?

**People: We do.**

Pastor: Will you be faithful to these new friends as they join this congregation and begin the next leg of their journey of faith?

**People: We promise our faithful companionship to these new members of our family.**

Pastor: Will you challenge them to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, upholding them in Christian love and holding them accountable to the Way of the Christ?

**People: We will lovingly challenge these new members to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, guiding them to live into the faith they profess.**

Pastor: Will you allow yourself to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed by these new members, together seeking God's will for our

lives together?

**People:** **With the help of God's Spirit, we will allow ourselves to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed, living even more fully into our called identity as the family of faith, Starview United Church of Christ.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *O God, we give you thanks, first for calling us to believe, then leading us to join together and gather into this church, the Body of Christ. We give you thanks for this family of faith and rejoice that you have led these newest members into our midst, adding their gifts and talents to ours. Together, may we live more fully in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of God's Kingdom. Amen.*

## **ANTHEM**

**Dr. Troy D. Winemiller**

## **OFFERING INVITATION**

**Liturgist 2:** Pentecost people!! Rejoice! We have received gifts too many to count. Now we have the chance to give in thanks and joy – AGAIN!

**Liturgist 1:** Your offerings of time, talent, and money will continue to enable our church to be a Pentecost presence in the community and wider world.

**Liturgist 2:** On this day of celebration, let us re-commitment ourselves to sharing the wind and fire of God's Spirit through the ministries of our church: musical talent, financial resources, the melody of laughter, the blessing of friendship, the use of our hands in cooking, praying, and doing repairs...

**Liturgist 1:** the use of our minds in problem-solving, our curiosity, spirit of compassion, and patience; our knack for planning and organizing, our obedience and the courage to act.

**Liturgist 2:** All these gifts and others, which bear our personal marks, are symbolized in our offering for the work of the church. In joy and gratitude, let us dedicate our offerings with a prayer. Please pray with me.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All people:** *For all you have given, for all we have received, we give you thanks, O Lord. We offer you our gifts of substance and the gift of our lives. We bring our passion, joy, and surprise, our visions, and dreams. May all we give, serve to refresh and enliven this church, as the wind of your Spirit did long ago. In the name of Christ, we pray: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up our hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you pour your Spirit upon us, filling us with visions and dreams and intoxicating us with an uncontainable eagerness to proclaim your good news in languages understood by all people.

You sent forth your Spirit to create the universe and fill it with your wonders. You breathed life into humanity, and we rose from the dusty face of the earth. In the fullness of time, your child, Jesus Christ, came speaking your words and doing your works; revealing the truth of who you are. He was crucified but you raised him to glory by your life-giving power. Having secured our adoption as your children and commissioned us to continue his works, he poured out your Holy Spirit on us, setting our hearts ablaze with a passion for peace, and firing our tongues with everlasting songs of joy. Therefore, with all the saints and angels we sing an everlasting hymn of praise...

**All sing:**

***Seraphic Hymn***

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full, are full, of the majesty of Thy Glory!  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

**Pastor:** We remember on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying,

**All:** *"This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

**Pastor:** In the same way after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave you thanks, then gave it to his friends, saying,

**All:** *"Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

**Pastor:** Bless, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts and bless us that as we receive them, we may be united with Christ and with one another, for the purpose of serving God in one Spirit and one mind. Amen.

**SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**All:** *Triune God, you have called your people from the east and the west, the north and the south to feast at Christ's Table. We thank you for the Presence of Christ and for the spiritual food of his body and blood. By the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to do your will. Go us with us into the streets, to our homes, and to our places of work and play, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may a Pentecost people – a people with hearts on fire with love for all your children, O God, and for Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

## HYMN

*The Church's One Foundation**Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11**Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,  
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;  
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,  
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,  
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

## BENEDICTION

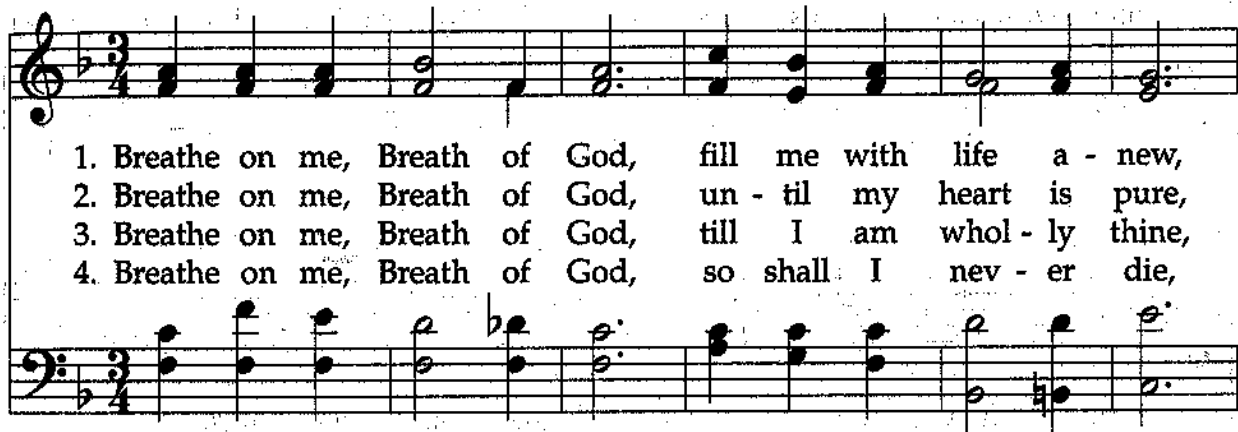
Pastor: Now may God, who created us a special people in Christ Jesus,  
Liturgist 1: lead us into the fullness of life for which we were intended,  
Liturgist 2: and give us peace and love to share with others, wherever we go,  
Pastor: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*All people: Amen.*

## POSTLUDE

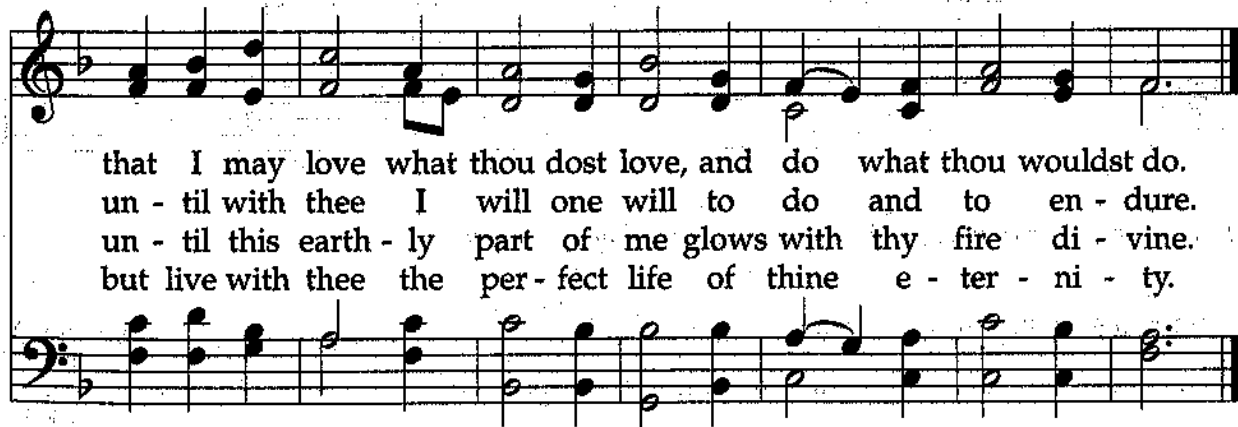
*"O Spirit of Life" (Newton)*

# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
un - til with thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.  
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.  
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.