

Pentecost Sunday  
May 31, 2020

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**GREETING****ANNOUNCEMENTS****CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Pastor: Sometimes our hearts are shut up like the doors that imprisoned the disciples.

**Congregation: Come, Holy Spirit, and gather us in with your mighty wind of justice! Blow open the doors of our hearts and minds and release us!**

Pastor: Darkness floods our souls and we wonder if we will ever see the light again.

**Congregation: Come, Holy Spirit, and gather us in and let the flames of fire touch our hearts and our spirits! Burn away our fears and frustrations!**

Pastor: We sit, huddled in our own worlds of alienation and isolation. When will we ever feel the power of your love again, O God?

**Congregation: Come, Holy Spirit, and gather us in. Fill our lives with your love! In creative new ways, free us to reach out to others with the good news of your eternal Presence.**

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, and gather us in. Now is the Kingdom! Now is the day!**

**HYMN**

*Gather Us In*

Bulletin, Pages 5 & 6

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>**

**All:** *Lord of patience and persistence, we live in a broken and shattered world. All around us we see great evidence of hatred and alienation. We cannot help but observe the alienation of your people from each other. We create devices to separate rather than unite; to divide rather than come together in hope. Forgive us for our sins. These sins cause such division and hurt. Remind us today that the disciples, too, lived in a fearful world and that one day you came to them, as they sat huddled in fear, and you empowered them. You gave them hearts of courage and faith. Please bring to us the same hearts that we may serve you well, bringing peace and hope to our world. In the name of Christ, we offer this prayer. Amen.*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS<sup>3</sup>**

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the good news: God's Holy Spirit brings you healing comfort and hope. You are being prepared to serve God in some mighty ways. Rejoice! God's Holy Spirit is with you always.

**All: Amen!**

**FIRST READING - Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.<sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted Call to Worship #2 (Ministry Matters: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2819/worship-connection-may-31-2020>) and the hymn, *Gather Us In* (Haugen, Marty). 20 May 2020

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Townley, Nancy C. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/8177/worship-connection-may-31-2020>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine!"

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

This is God's Holy Word. Let all the thankful people say, "Thanks be to God!" (wait)

## **SECOND READING - John 7:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let all God's people say, "Praise be to Christ." (Wait)

**SERMON**

**Rev. Laura Bair**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Breathe* (Smith)

**Dr. Troy Winemiller**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

Pastor: On this day of Pentecost, we celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the offerings of our time, talent, and money - blessed by the power of the Spirit - we participate in many of the everyday miracles experienced all around us. Let us give generously to foster the

miracles and possibilities that God has in store for this church and community. Let us now, take a moment in our hearts to re-commit ourselves to God's service and dedicate our tithes and offerings (Pause for personal dedication). Let us now pray together...

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*All: Lord of wind and fire, of hope and mercy, we ask that you bless these gifts today. We praise you for blessing us abundantly and ask that you use this portion of what we return to you. Put them to work for your kingdom, so all may know themselves to be blessed by you. We pray in one Spirit, as Christ taught us, praying: 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**

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*All: Eternal God, thank you for this mystery of faith, where you have given yourself to us. May we go into the world strengthened by your Spirit, in a spirit of generosity, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

#### **HYMN**

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

**Bulletin, Page 4**

#### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Breathe! Breathe in deeply, the Spirit of God!  
 Go in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
 Love Christ and do the things that he has done.  
 In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*All: Amen.*

# In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self- seek-ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

*Refrain*  
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

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## Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B $\flat$  Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B $\flat$  Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

*(Continued on next page)*

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our  
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A C G

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.