

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Pentecost Sunday

May 31, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

You are invited to silently pray as you prepare to offer thanksgiving to God.

Come, O Spirit of God. I offer myself to your work of healing, peace and reconciliation. In my busy world, bless my silent moments. In the stillness of my heart, may I find peace within myself, peace with others, and peace with you. Amen

GREETING

Wind, gentle wind, wind of our breathing, our life, our hope, renewing, refreshing, sighing in our stress, moaning in our pain, still in our dying.

O wind, wind, you breathed upon the clay and there was life, you danced down to the forehead of a Galilean and there was hope, you shook the foundations of community and there was Pentecost.

Wind of nothingness and awe, wind of knowing and unknowing, wind of bearing and begetting, wind of secrets and mystery, O wise, wise wind, whisper to us your grace.

Welcome to worship! May the Spirit rest upon each of us!

*OPENING SENTENCES

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters, the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters.

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is -with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare; and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.

I baptize with you water; but one more powerful than I is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

May the Lord give strength to the people!

May the Lord bless the people with peace!

Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation!

VOLUNTARY

Come O Spirit

Arr. Robert J. Powell

Melody Davis

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 66 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

CALL TO CONFESSION

We do not stop enough to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit's movement among us. In the silence and stillness of this moment, let us draw near to God and listen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, Renewing Spirit, that too often we confuse unity with uniformity, and diversity with divisiveness. We speak and behave as if being a part of your family means assimilating others to our way of living. We deny and destroy the beauty you created in each person. We long to change these patterns, but we do not know how. Teach us to value challenge. Help us to see strength in difference. Empower us to build your kingdom in creativity and love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one. We are no longer scattered or divided but gathered together to build up the kingdom on this earth. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In the name of the Creator, Son, and Spirit, Lord, open our ears, eyes, and minds that we may hear, see and live out your Word to us in holy scripture. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 64*)

Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin, the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible*, page 119)

Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

ANTHEM

A Mighty Rushing Wind
Sanctuary Choir

Patti Drennen

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 100)

John 7: 37-39

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As^[a] the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart^[b] shall flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit,^[c] because Jesus was not yet glorified.

*HYMN 286 *Breathe On Me Breath of God*

SERMON

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *We Sing of the Spirit*

We sing of God the Spirit, who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation, animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart. We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untamable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world. The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign. We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world. We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge. Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of wind and flame blow into our lives. Ignite the fire of hope. Fan the flames of possibility for all the many and varied ways we can be your church in this world at this time. Transform us into a people who share your love with a world in pain, a people who proclaim your hope into a world given to despair, a people who live as though the world can be changed into the kingdom that is to come.

God of many languages, you bring to us the many voices of joy. Hear all of your children who offer praise this morning, those who celebrate new life with all the possibilities of the future, those who celebrate relationships, both the new and exciting and the long-term yet still exciting, those for whom the wonder of life fills their being to the limit, may they hear your voice joining with ours.

And yet, God of life, you also speak the languages of pain, of sorrow, of fear, of despair. Hear all your children who speak, who wail, who whisper in these languages this day: those who find themselves in hospital beds, or waiting anxiously beside those beds, those who gather to say farewell to one who is traveling, or one who is moving, those who gather at graveside to say that longer farewell, those who worry about where the next meal, or the next rent check will come from, those who live in places where peace is just a word, a faint hope, a distant dream, May all those whose language is infused by pain hear you lamenting with them.

Hear the prayers of our hearts for our own congregation. As we continue to seek ways to be faithful in our praise and worship to you, we are mindful that the considerations for how we gather in this time must first and foremost be for the good of all. We so long to see one another, and yet, we so long to make it as safe as possible to see each other. Our opinions and thoughts are as varied as we, and so Lord, our common ground comes from the leading of your Spirit. Continue to make us one with your Spirit's guidance. We give thanks for our members and friends who have remained healthy. We give thanksgiving for the continued healing of Bobbe. We give thanksgiving for the move to a place that can better care for Bettye. We continue to keep Lewis, and all who are faced with health issues in our prayers, and we give thanksgiving for the many ways your people at Eastminster have cared for others.

God our creator, the rock of our salvation, we thank you for our new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name; keep us faithful to the calling of our baptism, now and forever.

God, our creator and rock of our salvation, who lights our fires, who fills our lungs with air, and who blows us out into the world to live and serve, we pray as people of the Spirit saying ...**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.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth and the animals that live here with us. On this birthday morning of the church, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to the world. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*Filled with the Glory
Sanctuary Choir*

Don Besig

*RESPONSE 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, Lord God of all creation, to you be glory and praise forever. Thank you for the gift of grace through your son, Jesus. Thank you for your Spirit's presence working in and through us that we might reveal your glory in all the world. Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit! Amen!

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

May we go out into the world, and work to bring the gift of new life through salvation. Dream dreams, pursue visions and speak of God's goodness in the words of those who would hear.

And may the God who breathed life into creation be our delight.
May Christ Jesus give hope to our dreaming,
and may the Holy Spirit, our advocate and supporter,
set our hearts ablaze with a passion for compassion, peace, hope and love.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN (LUYH) 151 *Come, Spirit, Come*