

# Riverside United Methodist Church

The Day of Pentecost • May 31, 2020 • 9:30 AM

We gather online to worship in the name of the  
+the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit+

## GATHERING

### Gathering Music

### Litany of the Spirit

One: From out of our silent depths into visible corporate acts,

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

One: Gathering the fragments of our Church into a living icon of your redeeming, reconciling, prophetic Christ,

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

One: Bonding together the dissenter, the affirmer, and the quester.

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

One: Radiating the light and the power of our rainbow-hued people,

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

One: Revealing your presence in and among each perceived and self-defined minority, wounded, lonely, or angry,

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

One: Gathering the fragments of our Church into dynamic communities of faith engaged in prophetic, redemptive, and reconciling ministries of love,

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

### Processional Hymn

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

*Glory to God 280*

1 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,  
come with Pentecostal power;  
give the church a stronger vision,  
help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation,  
Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,  
still the church is called to mission  
that God's love shall be made known.

2 We would raise our alleluias  
for the grace of yester years;  
for tomorrow's unknown pathway,  
hear, O God, our humble prayers.  
In the church's pilgrim journey  
you have led us all the way,  
still in presence move before us,  
fire by night and cloud by day.

3 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,  
give us words of fire and flame.  
Help our struggling voices praise you.  
glorify your holy name.  
Good Creator, Savior, Spirit,  
Three in One: what mystery!  
We would sing our loud hosannas  
now and through eternity.

### Invocation

God of wind, word, and fire, we bless your name this day for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit. We give you thanks for all the gifts, great and small, they you have poured out upon your children. Accept us with our gifts to be living

praise and witness to your love throughout all the earth; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

## Gathering the Community

### THE WORD

**Modern Reading** *In Whom We Live and Move and Have our Being* by Denise Levertov

Birds afloat in air's current,  
sacred breath? No, not breath of God,  
it seems, but God  
the air enveloping the whole  
globe of being.  
It's we who breathe, in, out, in, the sacred,  
leaves astir, our wings  
rising, ruffled—but only saints  
take flight. We cower  
in cliff-crevice or edge out gingerly  
on branches close to the nest. The wind  
marks the passage of holy ones riding  
that ocean of air. Slowly their wake  
reaches us, rocks us.  
But storm or still,  
numb or poised in attention,  
we inhale, exhale, inhale,  
encompassed, encompassed.

### Call to Prayer

*Spirit of Life*

*Singing the Living Tradition* 123

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind; rise in the sea.  
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free.  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

### Pastoral Prayer

#### Gradual

*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

TOWNEND

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Let the presence of the risen Lord  
come renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your Word to come alive in me.  
Give me faith for what I cannot see.  
Give me passion for your purity.  
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

## The Pentecost Account Acts 1:1-21 (CEB)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

One: The Pentecost account from the Acts of the Apostles

**All: Glory to you, O God.**

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!" Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: *In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood, before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

One: Living Spirit, Living Word

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### Response

*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

TOWNEND

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
giving life to all that God has made.  
Show your power once again on earth.  
Cause your Church to hunger for your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
that in unity, the face of Christ  
may be clear for all the world to see.

### Sermon

*The Universal Spirit*

Rev. Keith A. Turner

## THE EUCHARIST

### Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

### Offertory

### The Great Thanksgiving for Pentecost

One: Listen for the Wind.

**All: We are listening for the sound of the Holy Presence.**

One: Look for the Dancing Flame.

**All: We are looking for the Flame that warms our souls.**

One: Be receptive.

All: **We are open to the fresh movement of the Divine.**

When creation was in chaos, your Spirit brought order, you did a new thing. Out of Chaos you brought forth the light and the darkness and every shade in-between. You played in the waters, splashing so high it became the sky. You formed the earth with lakes and ponds, streams, rivers, creeks and oceans. It was a wonderful work of art, and you loved it! Out of Chaos you created variety, theme and variation, O, the vegetation you created. Then in the sky You made a billion, trillion wonders we have yet to discover, but one was our own to light our day and you gave us a moon to light our night sky. Out of Chaos you created such a symphony of life, so many wondrous sounds that praise your name, making music on the savannahs, the mountains, hills, and plains. Sounds of praise from swamps and deserts, forests and jungles. And then there was us, a vibrant expression of your image, with your gift of tongues, you are now praised in one grand cacophony of sound. It fills not only the earth, which is your foot stool, but also the heavens which is your throne, where you are praised continually:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the Highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna in the Highest.**

You are holy and Jesus is your gift to bring chaos into our settled world. Into the life of a young girl, Mary, you brought the chaos of an unexpected child. Into the life of Joseph, you brought the chaos of a child who was not his own. Into the life of Herod, you brought the chaos of another King in Israel. Into the lives of the Scribes and the teachers of the law, you brought the chaos of questions. Yet to those caught up in the chaos of blindness, Jesus brought sight. To those caught up in the chaos of possession, Jesus brought peace. To those caught up in the chaos of grief, Jesus brought resurrection and life. To those Christ called to be disciples Jesus brought chaos. He left his place of honor at the Passover feast to kneel humbly at their feet to show them hospitality. Their King became their slave. Their Master became their maid, as Jesus washed their feet. The greatest caring for the needs of these: traitors, liars, cowards, the least. Out of their confusion, an invitation to follow.

As they settled into the familiar rhythms of the Passover Jesus took the bread that proclaimed solidarity with the oppressed. With the ritual prayer Christ blessed it and then said: "Take and eat, this is my body given for you." Out of their confusion, an invitation to follow.

Once again after supper, they settled into the familiar rhythms of Passover Jesus took the cup and with the ritual prayer Christ blessed it and said: "Drink with me, all of you, for this is the cup of my life, poured out as a libation, testifying to God's covenant of forgiveness with you and the whole world." Out of their confusion, an invitation to follow.

In the chaos of our own lives we hear the invitation of Christ to follow. To find our greatness in serving and not in demanding to be served. To find our purpose in giving of our lives for the salvation of others. To find meaning in our suffering as we choose to bless instead of curse. To enter into the holy mystery of the Christ we declare:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!**

Howling Wind, Living Flame touch these gifts of bread and wine allow them to be for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our lives. Howling Wind, Living Flame touch the gift our lives offered to You, allow them to be for the world, the church, the body and bride of Christ for the transformation of the world. Howling Wind, Living Flame hover over the chaos in our community, our church and our lives. Open our lives to the beauty of your diversity, let all hear of your blessing in the language of the hearts, that all may come to know you and the love you have for us all in Christ Jesus.

It is to honor Christ, that we pray. It is by the joy of your Holy Spirit, that we pray. It is overcome by the wonder of your glory that we pray, Almighty God, now and every day of our lives.

**Amen. Amen. Amen!**

Now as those touched by God's Chaotic Spirit, let us pray like Jesus saying:

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father 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 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.

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Hymn during Communion

### *As the Wind Song*

*Glory to God 292*

1 As the wind song through the trees,  
as the stirring of the breeze,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
    as the heart made strangely warm,  
    as the voice within the storm,  
    so it is with the Spirit of God.  
Never seen, ever known  
where this wind has blown  
bringing life, bringing power to the world,  
    as the dancing tongues of fire,  
    as the soul's most deep desire,  
    so it is with the Spirit of God.

2 As the rainbow after rain,  
as the hope that's born again,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
    as the green in the spring,  
    as a kite on a string,  
    so it is with the Spirit of God,  
making worlds that are new,  
making peace come true,  
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,  
    as the rising of the yeast,  
    as the wine at the feast,  
    so it is with the Spirit of God.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## SENDING

### Closing Hymn

### *O Spirit of the Living God*

UMH 539

1 O Spirit of the living God,  
thou light and fire divine,  
descend upon thy church once more,  
and make it truly thine.  
Fill it with love and joy and power,  
with righteousness and peace;  
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts,  
and sin and sorrow cease.

2 Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow  
until our minds are free  
from mists of error, clouds of doubt,  
which blind our eyes to thee.  
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips  
with flaming love and zeal,  
to preach to all thy great good news,  
God's glorious commonweal

3 Teach us to utter living words  
of truth which all may hear,  
the language all may understand  
when love speaks loud and clear;  
till every age and race and clime  
shall blend their creeds in one,  
and earth shall form one family  
by whom thy will is done.

4 So shall we know the power of Christ  
who came this world to save;  
so shall we rise with him to life  
which soars beyond the grave;  
and earth shall win true holiness,  
which makes thy children whole;  
till, perfected by thee, we reach  
creation's glorious goal!

## Benediction

Sending Music