

The Worship of God

Pentecost Sunday
May 20, 2018

God's Spirit will be poured out on all flesh,
and our daughters and sons shall prophesy.
Our old ones shall dream dreams,
and our young ones shall see visions;
and all who call upon the name of the Lord
shall be delivered.

—from Acts 2

Gathering at God's Invitation

Music for Gathering

Marietta Mobley piano

Christ Candle

Opening Sentences

Rev. Alan Sherouse

Choral Introit

Mother Janet Stuart

Spirit Seeking Light and Beauty

Sanctuary Choir

*Spirit seeking light and beauty, heart that longeth for thy rest,
soul that asketh understanding, only thus can ye be blest.
Through the vastness of creation though your restless thought may roam,
God is all that you long for, God is all his creatures' home.*

*Taste and see Me, feel and hear Me, hope and grasp my unseen hand;
though the darkness seem to hide Me, faith and love can understand.
God, who lovest all thy creatures, all our hearts are known to thee,
lead us through the land of shadows to thy blest eternity.*

Organ Voluntary

Flor Peeters

*Veni, Creator Spiritus
Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire*

†Hymn of Praise 293

STUTTGART

Spirit, Working in Creation

stanzas one and two: **everyone**, stanza three: **women and children**
stanza four: **choir alone**, stanza five: **everyone**, stanza six: **men**
stanzas seven and eight: **everyone**

†Words of Friendship

Dr. Steve Sumerel

Hymn of Friendship 291

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

During the singing of the **Hymn of Friendship** children ages four through 5th grade may gather at the chancel steps for a Time for Children.

A Time for Children

Christina McCord

Prayers of God's People

Dr. Sumerel

Hearing God's Word

Opening of God's Word

Morgan Alexander

Scripture Lesson

Dr. Sumerel

John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

Sermon

Rev. Sherouse

Jesus in His Own Words | Gone Away

Responding to God's Word

Musical Interlude

†Hymn of Response 286

BRIDEGROOM

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Offertory Prayer

Dave Worsley, deacon

Choral Offering

John Wilson

There's A Spirit in the Air

Sanctuary Choir, Olivia Boddicker, Music Intern directing

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:

"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."

*Lose your shyness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay. We can see his power today!*

*When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.*

*Still his Spirit leads the fight, seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay. We can see his power today!*

*When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.*

*May his Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay. We can see his power today!*

—Brian Wren, 1969

Sending into God's World

Ordinance of Believer's Baptism

Jake McCord

Rev. Sherouse

Christina McCord

†Affirmation of Faith

Through baptism God gave us a gracious sign of love and hope in Christ. Let us say again the promises God has made to us in Christ.

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises to a covenant people.

In baptism God promises by grace alone to forgive our sins, to adopt us into the body of Christ, the church, to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew and cleanse us, and to resurrect us to eternal life.

This promise is made visible in the water of baptism.

Water cleanses, purifies, refreshes, sustains; Jesus Christ is living water. Through baptism Christ calls us to new obedience:

**to love and trust God completely,
to forsake the evil of the world,
and to live a new and holy life;**

yet when we fall into sin,
we must not despair of God's mercy or continue in sin,

**for Baptism is the sign and seal of a new life
and a new calling to participate in God's redemptive
work in this world.**

†Benediction

Rev. Sherouse

†Song of Response

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

Spirit of the Living God

The image shows a musical score for a song of response. It consists of two staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, move a - mong us all;". The music is a simple, hymn-like melody.

(continued)

make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

hum - ble, car - ing, self - less, shar - ing.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fill our lives with love!

Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of **Pentecost**. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem.

Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14.16), celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation, professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission, and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel. The traditional color for Pentecost is red, symbolizing the flames described in the second chapter of Acts.

