



May 23, 2021
Pentecost Sunday

GATHERING

Heather Hinton

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

PRELUDE

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

arr. E. L. Diemer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God declares, "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

People: Then, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

People: like a fierce wind to demolish all barriers between us.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

People: like a flame to kindle the fire of your love in us.

OPENING HYMN #422

Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love

***Jesus, thine all-victorious love shed in my heart abroad;
then shall my feet no longer rove, rooted and fixed in God.***

***O that in me the sacred fire might now begin to glow;
burn up the dross of base desire and make the mountains flow!***

***O that it now from heaven might fall and all my sins consume!
Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call, Spirit of burning, come!***

***Refining fire, go through my heart, illuminate my soul;
scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Garland Graves

Holy Wisdom,

Fire Divine,

Dove of Eternal Love:

**Settle into our hearts and inspire our minds
with visions of new ways of living and loving
in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience. In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, who pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

*Empty of Me*D. Lantz
Cathedral Singers

I hunger in the morning for a taste of Your grace, I thirst for Your Spirit full and free.
 You promised You would fill me with Your power divine, but first I must be empty of me.
 Light the flame of Your Spirit in my vessel today, pour out all that would quench the holy fire.
 Lord, fill me with Your Spirit 'til my cup overflows and always keep me empty of me.
 Fill me up, Lord, I want to overflow with Your Spirit full and free.
 Turn me upside down, pour me out on the ground, then fill me up and keep me empty of me.
 So, Spirit, make my heart your home, my soul Your very own. Full of You is what I long to be.
 A life that's overflowing with Your mercy and grace. Fill me up and keep me empty of me.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 104:24-34

Diane Gattone

Leader: How many are your works, O Lord!

**People: In wisdom you made them all;
 the earth is full of your creatures.**

Leader: There is the sea, vast and spacious,

**People: teeming with creatures beyond number—
 living things both large and small.**

Leader: There the ships go to and fro,
 and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

**People: All creatures look to you
 to give them their food at the proper time.**

Leader: When you give it to them, they gather it up;

**People: when you open your hand,
 they are satisfied with good things.**

Leader: When you hide your face, they are terrified;

**People: when you take away their breath,
 they die and return to the dust.**

Leader: When you send your Spirit, they are created,

People: and you renew the face of the ground.

Leader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
 may the Lord rejoice in these works—

**People: who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains, and they smoke.**

Leader: I will sing to the Lord all my life;

People: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Leader: May my meditation be pleasing to God,

as I rejoice in the Lord.

People: Praise the Lord, my soul.

Praise the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAYER #388

O Come and Dwell in Me

***O come and dwell in me, Spirit of power within,
and bring the glorious liberty from sorrow, fear, and sin.***

***I want the witness, Lord, that all I do is right,
according to thy mind and word, well-pleasing in thy sight.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, in your mercy....

People: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SECOND LESSON

Acts 2:1-13

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!"

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Fire Ring

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION #539

O Spirit of the Living God

***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.***

***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.***

***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!***

BLESSING

Leader: Go forth

in the Spirit of the Triune God.

May the Counselor lead you with truth;

may the Advocate protect your way;

and may the Comforter fill you with peace.

People: We go into the world

in the power of the Spirit

to fulfill our high calling as witnesses for Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. R. Dinda

Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Diane Gattone, *Pastor of Care & Nurture*

Garland Graves, *Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee*

John Hague & Jack Haefling, *Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*

Heather Hinton, *Organist*