

**ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

May 23, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Sweep through our midst, Mighty Wind, to give us new breath. Awaken our spirits, inspire our praise, set us on fire with Your love. May no one here remain unmoved by Your presence or cut off from the dreams You inspire. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Spirit of the Living God"

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, FALL FRESH ON ME

Author (st. 1): Daniel Iverson (1926); Tune: IVERSON

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like the first disciples, we have much to learn about sin and righteousness and judgment. Almost without conscious awareness, we slip into the valley of dry bones, devoid of meaning and hope, unable even to pray. But together we can join our voices, asking that our spirits will awaken to new possibilities.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we have cut ourselves off from the power of Your presence, lest we be swept off our feet and be forced to see life from a new perspective. We have

belittled those who speak with certainty of Your transforming Spirit and turned away from any truth larger than our own perceptions. We are dry bones in a valley of dry bones. How shall we live? Hear our personal prayers of confessions ...

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In hope we are saved. The Spirit helps us in our weakness, intercedes for us, and guides us into all truth. God seeks to restore us to the fullness of life, to offer us hope, to assure us of our worth and value. Feel the flames of God's love resting on us, empowering us to love and serve in Christ's name.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 2:1-21

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

¹ The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"¹⁰ So I prophesied as he

commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

ACTS 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "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.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

SERMON: "Surrender"

ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

SENTENCES

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

ADDRESS

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

WELCOME

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 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

BENEDICTION

God's love is changing us and granting new life.
With joy and amazement, we scatter to serve.

CLOSING HYMN: "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE

Samuel Longfellow, 1819–1892; Tune: SONG 13; Composer, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

1) Holy Spirit, Truth divine,
Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God and inward light
Wake my spirit, clear my sight.

2) Holy Spirit, Love divine,
Glow within this heart of mine;
Kindle every high desire;
Perish self in Thy pure fire.

3) Holy Spirit, Power divine,
Fill and nerve this will of mine;
By Thee may I strongly live,
Bravely bear, and nobly strive.

4) Holy Spirit, Right divine,
King within my conscience reign;
Be my Law, and I shall be
Firmly bound, forever free.
