

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 2021

Organ Prelude: Prelude in A major

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”
(Acts 2: 1-4)

We gather for worship in order to experience anew, the gift and power of the Holy Spirit.

We gather for worship in order to feel the rush of the wind of the Spirit and the fire of the Spirit's love flowing through us.

We gather for worship in order to discern where the barriers to love are in our lives and our relationships, and to let the Spirit break them down.

We gather as a church with a history where many have felt excluded, humiliated and shamed because they have not fit a certain gender and sexual norm.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come, and fill us anew with your love as we worship and learn again what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ!

Hymn: O holy Dove of God descending

No. 392

soloist Elias Theocharidis with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. O holy Dove of God descending,
you are the love that knows no ending;
all of our shattered dreams
you're mending:
Spirit, now live in me.

2. O holy Wind of God now blowing,
you are the seed that God is sowing;
you are the life that
starts us growing:
Spirit, now live in me.

3. O holy Rain of God now falling,
you make the word of God enthralling;
you are that inner voice now calling:
Spirit, now live in me.

4. O holy Flame of God now burning,
you are the power of Christ returning;
you are the answer to our yearning:
Spirit, now live in me.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: You can have it all, Lord

soloist Joanne Nasmith with guitarist Jim Nasmith

Bethel music

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-18, Acts 8:26-39

Acts 2:1-18

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.

⁵ 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.'

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy. Amen.

Acts 8:26-39

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ ³¹He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. Amen.

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

THE THREAT OF CHANGE

Dr. Harris

Special Music: "Come down O Love divine"

R. Vaughan Williams

reharmonization & descants by Bruce Nasmith

soloists Elias Theocharidis & Chris Tanaka-Mann with organist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "Spirit, Spirit of gentleness"

No. 399

soloist Chris Tanaka-Mann with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Refrain:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness
calling and free.**

**Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, Wind on the sea.**

3. You sang in a stable;
you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still,
and down in the city
you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. **(Refrain)**

4. You call from tomorrow;
you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes;
with bold new decisions
your people arise. **(Refrain)**

1. You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep,
and over the aeons
you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings. **(Refrain)**

2. You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land,
and when they were blinded
with their idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. **(Refrain)**

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Fugue in A major

J. S. Bach