May 28, 2023 + 10:30 A.M.

Day of Pentecost

We Join in Worship

If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.

PRELUDE

St. Agnes

J.B. Dykes

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Christ's peace is with us always, no matter where we may be. And so, Christ's peace is with each and every one of us in this moment. Let us take it in. Let us really feel it. If able, stand where you are and make signs of Christ's peace all around. If you are worshiping from home, call somebody from the church and greet them with Christ's peace after the service.

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 104)

Leader:

Bless the LORD, O our souls. O LORD our God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a

tent.

ALL:

You set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your

chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire

and flame your ministers.

Leader:

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You cover it with the

deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

ALL:

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the ground.

Leader:

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in these works—who

looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

ALL:

We will sing to the LORD as long as we live; we will sing praises to our God while we

have being.

Leader:

May our meditations be pleasing to the LORD, for we rejoice in the LORD

ALL:

Bless the LORD, O our souls! Praise the LORD!

*OPENING HYMN: "Spirit of the Living God" (322) Sing twice!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader:

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with

Christ." Together let us confess how we have harmed this body...

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God our loving parent, we come to you with our confession, trusting in your tender care. Help us to repair what we have broken with our transgressions and so to reconcile with each other and with you. We confess that we have strayed from the messages of Babel and the Pentecost. Throughout history you have taught us to embrace diversity in our unity. Your Kingdom is full of different languages, races, genders, and expressions, all reflecting the beauty of your image. And yet we tacitly accept walls and prisons and policies that segregate and mandate uniformity. All too often our houses of worship reflect these same impulses. Forgive us. Fill us once more with your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: No. 572 (unison)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader:

Friends, hear the good news! The Holy Spirit came upon those gathered in Jerusalem,

ensuring the presence of our forgiving God in our midst.

ALL:

God is with us, and we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: (From *The Heidelberg Catechism*)

Leader:

What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?

ALL:

First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, the Spirit makes me share in

Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.

We Hear God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON:

Numbers 11:24-30

EPISTLE LESSON:

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:

Acts 2:1-21

SERMON:

Filled with the Spirit

MUSICAL MEDITATION:

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is

S.R. Adams

We Respond in Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

OFFERING INVITATION:

Leader:

"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." Let us give the gifts of our tithes and offerings as we dream new dreams and seek to make them reality. If you are here in person today and have not yet done so, please place your offering in the plate as you leave. If you are here virtually today, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option. Now let us take a moment to reflect on stewardship as we hear the offertory.

OFFERTORY

Spirit of God, Descend

Barnby/arr. Hooper

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

O God, we dedicate these gifts to you and to your Kingdom. Help us to use these gifts and our spiritual gifts of visioning and dreaming wisely in your service. Amen.

We Go Into the World

*CLOSING HYMN: "Spirit" (319)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Duke Street"

L. Dean Bye

The rose in the chancel this morning is in celebration of the birth of Kayleigh Faith Studer, great-granddaughter of Caroline Studer, born May 17, 2023.

Permission to reprint/podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-739456. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint/podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI with print license #11390760 and streaming plus license #21397339. All rights reserved.

* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

Life of the Church

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 5/28:

Worship in Person & Online 10:30 AM

Youth Connections

MONDAY 5/29:

MEMORIAL DAY

GA - 6:30 PM

Al-Anon-7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 5/31:

GA - 7:00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **FLOWER VOUCHER SALE FOR MINISTRY OF MISSION** The Ministry of Mission at FPCH is having its annual flower voucher fundraiser with Zandstras Greenhouse located at 10202 Kennedy Avenue, Highland, IN 46322. The flower vouchers are \$17.00/each and they are worth \$17.00, and you use them just like cash. The Ministry of Mission receives \$3.00 for each voucher sold. It is a win, win situation for everyone. You get gorgeous flowers or wonderful vegetable plants from our local greenhouse, and you also support our Ministry, which in turn helps our community. Mission will begin selling the vouchers Sunday, April 23rd, in Fellowship Hall. Also, if you are interested in purchasing a voucher, or two, or three, please contact Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181. She will make arrangements to deliver the vouchers to you.
- INTERESTED IN GROUP BIBLE STUDY OVER THE SUMMER? If you would be interested in participating in a short-term (6-8 weeks), mid-week Bible study group during the summer, daytime or evening, please contact Heather Casiano by June 15th at hcasiano@fpchighland.org or call the church office and leave your name, what time of day/evening works the best for you, and which day of the week you prefer. This is open to all ages, children through adult. If there is enough interest (friends are always welcome!) we can get a small group started.

- WoW! WALL OF WORDS There is a Wall of Words located in the narthex. Every couple of weeks a new word from our worship will be posted on the wall. Our current word is "SPIRIT." All are invited to consider the word throughout the week and post a small reflection of how you see, experience or witness that word out in the world. This can be a short written reflection or a picture or drawing, and you can contribute to the wall as often as you'd like. Take the messages of our worship into your week and be amazed at how God is present!
 - YOUTH CONNECTIONS TODAY, MAY 28, AFTER WORSHIP We'll be going out for lunch and then heading to Zig-E's Funland to celebrate the end of the school year! Youth Connections is open to all youth in 6th 12th grades, and young adults post-high school through mid-20s. If you would like to be involved with Youth Connections, please contact Heather Casiano or Pastor Tyler.
 - <u>ADULT CONNECTIONS ON HIATUS FOR THE SUMMER</u> BYOB and The Bible in Today's World will resume in the fall. Please prayerfully consider joining us then!
 - **FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** Our Ministry of Hospitality is seeking hosts for fellowship! There is a sign up board downstairs. Hosting can be as simple as bringing store-bought snacks or as fun as making something if you have the skills!
 - <u>INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?</u> You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- <u>BLESSING BOX</u> Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates on food items before donating them.
- <u>HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!</u> Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex to help the church's food pantry. We'd love to have you take a bag home, place some non-perishable food items in the bag, and bring it back to the church to help keep our pantry stocked!
- GOT SNEAKERS?? Now that spring is here...it may be time to clean out your closets of gently worn and used sneakers. The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our church's general fund AND will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills. Bring the sneakers (athletic shoes only) to the church and put them in one of the blue bins...either by Door D (inside and outside) or in the narthex.

Prayer List

Anthony

George Nelson Brady Vanes George Griner Guy Hendricks

Bill and Anettia Holmes

Daniel Litwicki David Markley David Kingen Carmelo

Diana and Ray Mendoza

Janet Orem John Mullen Jeanne Nestor

Cindy Waltz and Sister

Andrew Bobalik Gale Snyder Yvonne Suroviak

U. Chong Wendy

Georgette Sknerski Jakob Holden Denise Matthys Steve & Melinda Gary Studer Jan Oprea Janet Vargo Robbie

Piper

Laura Wisner Delta Rose

Peter Churitch

Lena

Laura Buono Domsic The Windstrups Ruth Dekker Rick Parker Barbara Morton

Cary and Jennifer Pearson

Carol Finley Winnie Owen Holly Letnich Lily Renfro

Caroline Studer

Marla and Jerry Renfro

Jaden Mendez Frank Falzone

Doug and Sue Matthews Janet Terpstra and Family

Robert Urich Richard Simmons Glen Nahler Virginia Marshall

Tammy
Tom
Jana Tolley
Kathy Elroy
Larry Perryman
Ric Jaeggi
Florance Cody
Josephine Kim

Mark Paulina Martinez Ron Meinhardt

Charity Lynn Sharon LaFlech

Loved ones of Bob and Fran Morton

Numbers 11:24-30

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵ Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶ Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" ³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Acts 2:1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All 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 people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, 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.
19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

There is a Wall of Words located in the narthex. Every couple of weeks a new word from our worship will be posted on the wall. Our current word is "SPIRIT." All are invited to consider the word throughout the week and post a small reflection of how you see, experience or witness that word out in the world. This can be a short written reflection or a picture or drawing, and you can contribute to the wall as often as you'd like. Take the messages of our worship into your week and be amazed at how God is present!

Feel free to use the space below to reflect on **SPIRIT** in writing, drawing, or any other form of expression! You can tear off what you create and add it to our Wall of Words so that all can experience new life in your encounters with **SPIRIT**.

Here are some guiding questions that might help.

What does it mean to be Spirit-filled? How do you encounter the Holy Spirit in your life? What are some different ways that we use the word "spirit?"

Filled with the Spirit

Numbers 11:24-30; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13; Acts 2:1-21

I have never really paid much attention to today's reading from *Numbers*, but now that I have read it several times this week I am fascinated. In the time of Moses, God visited a tent meeting of elders. In the midst of that meeting, God took some of the spirit that was on God and put it on those gathered. When that spirit rested upon them, they began to prophesy. I am fascinated by the mechanics of it. The spirit is described as something *on* God, as though the spirit were a garment God was wearing or a substance attached to God. Then God removed a portion of it, not all of it, and put it on those gathered. I am reminded of Elisha asking for a double portion of Elijah's spirit and then receiving Elijah's mantle upon his shoulders. The more I think about it, the more I consider other passages about God's spirit in the Hebrew Bible. And the more I consider the passages, the more I realize that the spirit is described as something that hovers over, comes upon, or is placed upon. God's spirit *hovered over* the waters at Creation as a wind. God's spirit was *placed upon* the elders gathered in the tent with Moses. God's spirit *came upon* various judges like Gideon and Samson, prophets like Isaiah, and kings like Saul. In this understanding, God's spirit is thus something that can also be taken off. We see it with those seventy elders. After the tent meeting they were no longer able to prophesy because God's spirit was no longer upon them. Much later, God's spirit was removed from the infamous king Saul.

This mechanism of God's spirit coming upon a person continued into the New Testament. At Jesus's baptism, God's spirit descended *upon* him like a dove. But then it all changed at a fundamental level. As Jesus lived his life and went about his public ministry of living love, or maybe it was during those three days of death, the Holy Spirit moved from this external dwelling place to an internal dwelling place. For, as we heard several weeks ago when the resurrected Jesus visited the disciples huddling in fear in the Upper Room, the Holy Spirit was within his very lungs. And then he breathed the Holy Spirit into those gathered in the Upper Room. It was like a reenactment of that tent meeting in the time of Moses. Only, this time God's spirit was breathed *into* rather than placed *onto* the elders. The Spirit became part of them just as she had become part of Jesus. This was not just a fundamental change; it was a monumental change! It was a change that would forever change the course of history. It was a change that would forever change the world. It was a change that would forever change all of us. For, it meant that in partnership with Jesus, the Holy Spirit And that was only a foretaste of the glory divine that was to come! For, right before he journeyed back to Heaven Jesus said to his disciples, "This is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

He was referring, of course, to the day of Pentecost. *Pentecost* is a Greek word for the Jewish *Shavuot*, Festival of Weeks—called that because it marks seven weeks after the Passover. At its heart, it is a harvest festival, celebrating the harvest of wheat, a blessing of God's providence. It is also a festival on which two major events have been historically observed. At the time of our passage from *Acts*, Jews were also celebrating God's cutting of the covenant with Noah and God's giving of the Law to Moses. Part of the observance of this festival that carried so much weight was a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Jews from all over the diaspora made their way to Jerusalem. And so, seven weeks after the Passover—seven weeks after the Last Supper—the city of Jerusalem was teeming with people from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. There would have been countless different skin colors, different languages, different perspectives on the world, and different ways of worshiping. All were there to celebrate a harvest. All were there to celebrate a covenant. All were there to celebrate a law, a Word of God. As they were gathered together in one place, a tiny group of twelve Galileans, with Matthias now in their number, began to speak.

"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...at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? If so, how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?...All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'"

What does this mean? It means that the wind that had hovered over the waters at Creation, the breath that Jesus had breathed into the lungs of those huddled in the Upper Room, the source of Wisdom for the prophets of old, the Spirit of the living God had blown into all of those gathered in Jerusalem. And so they saw tongues of fire. And so they spoke each their own language and were able to understand each other. The beautiful, necessary diversity of their languages and contexts was maintained and honored. The harmful walls built up along dividing lines of languages and contexts were demolished in their newfound understanding of each other. For, now they shared something in common that at once embraced diversity and transcended divisions. Now they shared the Holy Spirit in their very essence. They represented that vast beauty of difference, the multiple nature of God's image, and they represented the deep power of unity in the Spirit.

Thus they heard and understood that little group of Galileans, led by Peter, as they spoke of the Law fulfilled and the Word made flesh, as they spoke of a new covenant, as they spoke of the bountiful providence of God—in other words as they honored and observed this *Shavuot*, this *Pentecost* that they all shared. That day 3,000 people were baptized in water. And so the Church was born—with 12 poor fishermen and laborers from the Galilean countryside, the many unnamed women who had been there through it all, and 3,000 Jews and proselytes from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East speaking the many different languages of specific contexts within those regions. So, at its birth the Church was a multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-gender, multi-religious, multi-economic class, multi...movement—representing the beautiful multiple-ness of the image and likeness of God. On that day of birth, all who were gathered were baptized with the Holy Spirit, empowered to carry on the work that was begun by this Jesus of Nazareth who had just ascended to heaven—to spread the good news of God's love in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, not as conquering, colonizing missionaries, but as people going home. And on that day of birth God also adopted all of them, choosing them as heirs and claiming a bond of Spirit that is more powerful than blood. God said, "Gotcha!" And so all of those gathered in all of their multiple-ness became siblings with a shared Spirit and a shared Parent.

Holy Spirit, of course, was in the world all along, ever since the universe came into existence. And before that she existed. She was always there hovering over the waters, guiding refugees, and whispering to the prophetesses and prophets. But on that day she manifested in a way that could leave no doubt that something new was being born. On that day it became clear that she was entering the people gathered, filling them up, becoming part of them, not just working externally. From then on she would hover within the people as a constant presence. From then on she would guide the people with the purpose that we feel in our guts. From then on she would be that still, small voice inside of everyone, speaking the truths of love and rightness.

And that was just one event of birth and adoption and baptism! Over the many centuries since then, she has continued to make things new. She has spoken to more and more prophetesses and prophets who have spoken truths of love and rightness into constantly changing contexts. She has given power to voices that the systems of this world function to silence. She has been there with joy for every birth, every adoption, and every baptism. She has been there for every disaster, every illness, and every death, providing comfort and grieving alongside of us. She has fallen upon revivals of people all over the world—often the outcast and oppressed—giving rise to charismatic and Pentecostal movements and renewing gifts of prophecy and healing and speaking other languages and understanding other languages. She has moved with the movement of the followers of the way of Jesus of Nazareth—as it spread like wildfire in the time of the first disciples and as it continues to spread like wildfire in the global South. She has sung with us and read with us as we have embraced the richness of our traditions. She has inspired us to break free of confining walls that we have built—spiritually and physically—in order to grow with creativity because we are to be dynamic just as she is. She has called us to be the body of Christ in the world today, in the fullness of our diversity and in the power of our unity. In short, she has called us to be the Spirit-filled Church that was birthed in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

I often reflect on what it means to be a Spirit-filled Church. I know that there are very particular ideas out there of "Spirit-filled" only defining charismatic churches with prophesying, faith healing, and glossolalia. Such churches very well may be Spirit-filled, but that is not the only way to be so. For, to be Spirit-filled means to love all and welcome all, embracing the fullness of the diversity of God's image. To be Spirit-filled means to share a unity of purpose, namely the purpose of sharing God's love with the world. To be Spirit-filled means to be open to the winds of new life and creation. To be Spirit-filled means to be not afraid, for God is with us always.

And I have good news, First Presbyterian Church of Highland, for we are a Spirit-filled Church! This beloved community has people connecting in person and virtually who speak:

English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese

Mandarin, Malayalam, Hindi, Sinhala and Tamil

Krio, Creole, Korean, Arabic, and Wolof

Bemba, Tumbuka, Chewa, Nyanja, and Swahili

This beloved community has people connecting in person and virtually who represent the prismatic spectrums of gender, race, sexual orientation, age, income level, ability level, and even religion. This beloved community is filled with people passionate about our united purpose of sharing God's love with the world. Just last week nearly thirty of us gathered to break bread together, reflect on that purpose, recognize what we are doing for that purpose, and open ourselves up to the winds of new life and creation in striving forward in that purpose. We wore ourselves out simply trying to name all that we already do, even with our relatively small numbers! And then we were energized by the possibility of trying to do some things differently! Oh yes, we are a Spirit-filled Church indeed!

So, in this Pentecost moment, I urge all of us to take a deep breath and receive all that Holy Spirit has to offer for such a time as this. Come on, fill those lungs all the way up! Let her oxygenate every cell of your body. Envision this happening. Feel this happening. Now, with that breath of Spirit making its way into our brains, let us see visions and dream dreams of the possibilities that we can create after we go through this rebirthing—possibilities for building a world based on the love and rightness of God who chooses and claims ALL of us across that world. With the expansion of our lungs, let us also expand our hearts and minds so that we can break free of the walls we have built and then connect at the deepest levels with our family members in every context of this world. With every cell tingling with new life, let us prophesy and speak truth with our passion and power.

And then let us breathe out...well, let us *blow* out as though there are candles in front of us. For, we have a birthday to celebrate! Happy Birthday, Church! *Happy birthday to us! Happy birthday to us! Happy birthday to us! Happy birthday to us!* Amen!

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD Irregular Daniel Iverson, 1935 Daniel Iverson, 1935; adapted Fall a-fresh on me; liv - ing God, Spir - it of the me. Fall a-fresh on Spir - it of liv - ing God, the me. use Fill me, mold me, Melt me, liv - ing God, Fall a-fresh on me. Spir - it of the





=116-126