

**June 8, 2025 + 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.*

Preacher: Heather Casiano

Liturgist: Jean Smith

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* Traditional Irish Melody

Arr. Carol Tournquist

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Psalm 104)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord our God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty; you ride on the wings of the wind!

ALL: You make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers. May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

Leader: We will sing to the Lord as long as we live; we will sing praise to our God while we have being.

ALL: May our meditation be pleasing to him, for we rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (Glory to God 286)**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples, and to show his love to the world. Even though we fail to fulfill all the promises we make, God's faithful love endures forever. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples, creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE: Glory to God, No. 579 (unison)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: Through Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL: **Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA PATRI (unison, 577)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith—PCUSA*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. ... The Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silences, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of your word and the understanding of your Spirit so that we may be your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: "The Fire, the Wind, and the Water" by Doug Porter

SERMON: Hearing Voices

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Wonderful Words of Life* Philip P. Bliss arr. Carol Tournquist

We Respond in Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (adaptation written by Jim Cotter, as it appears in "A New Zealand Prayer Book / He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa")

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING INVITATION

It's wonderful to read about how the Holy Spirit moved among the early church, beginning on Pentecost. It's also a blessing to know that God continues to move in our church and our world today. Our tithes and offerings are a response to those Pentecost winds and flames still speaking to us. Let us give joyfully for the work and mission of God in the world. If you are here in person, please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us take a moment to reflect on stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY Spirit Song

John Wimber

*** DOXOLOGY:**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit one;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

Most Generous God, you have blessed us with the gift of your Holy Spirit and with gifts of talents, tithes and offerings to serve and share. May we be obedient to the voice of your Spirit to use what we present today for your work here on earth for all people. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN "On Pentecost They Gathered" (Glory to God 289)**

We Go Into the World

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart with O Breath of Life
Frederick C. Atkinson/Joel Blomquist arr. Cindy Berry

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* 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.

Geraniums were given to the glory of God as a gift for the sanctuary and the garden by the following:

Bob & Charlotte Abernethy, in memory of Jack & Ernie
Clara Coapstick & Jean Allmond, in memory of the Coapstick & Allmond Families
Hunter Balczo
Fred & Carol Callaway, in memory of Chuck Fish, whose vision brought our garden to life
Jesse & Heather Casiano, in honor of their two sons, Robbie & Tristan
Peter & Gale Churitch, in honor of Family
Lois Fozkos, in memory of Conrad & Cameron
Karen Lounsbury, in honor and memory of Loved Ones
Julia McStravog, in memory of Fr. Graham Golden
Lexa Miller, in memory of her mother, Suzanne Barnes and her friend, Debbie Amrhein
Tyler Orem & Vima Couvertier Cruz, in memory of Grandma Virginia, Pappy Jamie, Aunt Teresa, and Titi Isabel
Marjean Reed
Jean Smith, in memory of Jay Smith and Bob & Arlene Diekman
Cheryl Steen, in memory of Lowell H. Steen and Laura Wisner
John & Judy Toren, in memory of their parents

Life of the Church

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 6/8:	PENTECOST Worship In Person & Online – 10:30 AM Fellowship Hosts: Faith Development
MONDAY 6/9:	GA – 6:30 PM Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
TUESDAY 6/10:	Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) Mission – 6:00 PM Stewardship/Finance – 6:30 PM AA – 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 6/11:	Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) GA – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY 6/14:	Cook for Shelter – 1:00 PM
SUNDAY 6/15:	FATHER'S DAY Outdoor Worship – 10:30 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MINISTRY OF MISSION'S FLOWER VOUCHER SALE** Support FPCH's vital mission work and gain some beautiful new life for your home and garden in the process! Please see a member of the Ministry of Mission to purchase your voucher for Zandstra's!
- **PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER** Mission's Annual 4th of July Parking Lot Fundraiser begins on Wednesday, July 2nd and runs through Sunday, July 6th. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, June 8th. Sign up early and often. This is a major fundraiser for Mission, and without the support of the congregation this event would not be possible.

- **WORSHIP IN THE GARDEN JUNE 15TH!** If weather permits, we will be worshipping outside on June 15th! We may shift where we are sitting to avoid traffic and construction on Delaware, and it will be beautiful!
- **SALAD SALE JUNE 22ND** Get a refreshing lunch and support the church's general fund in the process!
- **4th ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW FUNDRAISER** The FPCH Crafters will be holding a kickoff meeting for this year's Craft Show Fundraiser on June 22 after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! Please bring your ideas for craft projects.
- **"BYOB" (BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE)** Our Wednesday evening online Bible study and discussion is on hiatus until the fall. Join us then!
- **THE BIBLE IN TODAY'S WORLD** Our Sunday morning class is on hiatus until the fall. Join us then!
- **BUILDING USE FORMS** Just a quick reminder that for the safety and security of everyone using our building, we need to have building use request forms filled out by both members and non-members whenever they use any area of the building outside of regular church activity functions.
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.
- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** 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:

- **BLESSING BOX** 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!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.
- **GOT SNEAKERS?** We are still participating in the Got Sneakers Fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell; all we need is your support and your gently worn, used, or new sneakers! Blue bins are located in the narthex, and inside and outside DOOR D by the office. Every pair counts!

Prayer List

Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Bill and Anettia Holmes
David Markley
Pat and David Kingen
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Yvonne Suroviak
Georgette Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Jan Oprea
Florance Cody
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea
Laura Buono Domsic
The Windstrups
Rick Parker
Gary Everhart
Caroline Studer
Darlene O'Brien
Doug & Sue Matthews
Janet Terpstra
Glen Nahler
Tom
David Hamblin
Jana Tolley
Larry & Bonnie Perryman

Delta Rose
Winnie Owen
Breeanne
Mom Bechtler
Victor
Marian Clayton
Ella P
Edie Delgano
Melissa J.
Rita Stronczek
Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon
OGB
Edna Cruz
Katie
Charlie
Jerry & Rena Martinez
George
Dustin
Noreen
Kim
Jessica
Nicole
Greg
Pastor Jane
Mary Ellen Edeus
Jane and David
Lodean
Suzanne
Jalen
Flora R.

“The Fire, the Wind, and the Water” by Doug Porter

A: The liberation of God's people began with

C: the burning of a flame.

B: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

A: Moses led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

C: There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush:

B: Is not my word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

A: He looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

C: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.

A: The liberation of God's people continued with fire

C: and with wind.

A: On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain,

B: and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

A: Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain.

C: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

A: Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire;

B: the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently.

C: As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder.

A: God's people remembered their liberation out of Egypt in the celebration of three festivals:

B: Passover, or the Feast of Unleavened Bread;

A: Shavuot, or Pentecost;

C: and the Feast of Tabernacles.

A: For God had said:

C: Three times in the year you shall hold a festival for me.

B: You shall observe the feast of Passover, which marks the first spring harvest.

C: You shall observe Pentecost, the thanksgiving festival of the harvest of wheat,

B: and remember the giving of the Law.

C: You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles at the end of the harvest,

B: when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

A: These are the three times in the year when all your males shall appear before the Lord God.

C: The fire, the wind.

B: The water.

A: After his suffering, Jesus presented himself alive to the apostles by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

C: While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

B: "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."

A: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

B: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

A: And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,

C: He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.

A: and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

B: And anything else that can withstand fire must be put through the fire, and then it will be clean.

A: Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

B: Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived?

A: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

C: The fire,

B: the wind,

A: the water.

C: Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

B: Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

C: And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

B: And they said to one another, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

C: Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Germans, Swedes, Palestinians, and residents of Moscow, Geneva and Beijing, Pretoria and Cairo, France and Indonesia, Egypt and Libya, visitors from ...

B: The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, “Let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”

C: In our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.

B: So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

C: Is not my word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

A: All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,

C: “What does this mean?”

A: But others sneered and said,

C: “They are filled with new wine.”

A: But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

B: “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.

C: The fire,

A: the wind, the water.

B: This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: “In the last days it will be,” God declares, “that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

A: out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.

B: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit;

C: those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

A: The water that I give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

B: And they shall prophesy. And I will show signs in the heaven above and signs on the earth below; blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

C: The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

B: “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

A: So that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

B: This Jesus God raised up, and of that, all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.

C: On that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

B: Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

A: Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles,

C: “Brothers, what should we do?”

A: Peter said to them,

B: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

A: And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying,

B: “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

C: Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; and every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

A: The fire, the wind, the water.

A: All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

C: Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm.

A: Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple,

C: they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

B: praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

C: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

B: And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Spirit of the Living God

Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 8:14-17; Acts 2:1-21

A long long time ago

In a time I can't remember

The whole earth spoke a single tongue

They built a tower to the sky

That they could make their name so high

And maybe they'd be happy all as one

But the Lord had had different plans. Looking at the city and the tower, the Lord was struck by the fact that everybody was speaking the same language. The Lord recognized that uniformity was a problem. The world needed difference. The world needed uniqueness. The world needed color. The world needed a variety of voices and sounds and expressions and races. Otherwise the children of God wouldn't truly reflect that vastness of God's image. Otherwise, the world would be boring and lifeless. Otherwise, though they thought they were unlimited, the children of God would in fact be limited by their uniformity, by their lack of diversity. Otherwise, the children of God would build these drab cities with these drab towers and begin to see God as a rival rather than as a loving parent. That couldn't be. And so, the Lord created different languages and scattered the children of God across the planet.

Bye Bye this tower in the sky.

Sent the children to the wilderness to give difference a try.

And them bad ole days of uniformity would die

Singin' this'll be the the day of new life.

This'll be the day of new life.

Hey, I try.

The world turned, and different cultures and languages flourished. The diversity of languages led to diversity of thought and art and music and knowledge. The vast beauty of God's image came to fruition in all different colors and all different sounds. There were new towers built, but not for the purpose of rivaling God. In many cases of steeples and minarets and kalasas, the towers were meant to point to the heavens and bring glory to God.

But all was not right with the world. The children of God began to oppress and violate each other because of their differences. The children of God began to claim superiority and supremacy based on their skin color or language or religion or place of origin. The children of God began to fight wars against each other and colonize each other and enslave each other and imprison each other—all based on their differences.

And the world kept turning through the ages with the powers and principalities reinforcing the evils of different nationalisms and superiority complexes. And finally God said, "**ENOUGH!**" God decided to come to

earth as one these humans, to understand why there was so much violence and hate and to do something about it.

And so Jesus of Nazareth was born as a brown-skinned, Aramaic-speaking Palestinian colonized by the European Roman Empire. He lived a life of radical inclusion, coming to know Middle Easterners, Asians, Africans, and Europeans who spoke Hebrew, Tigrinya, Persian, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, Amharic, and surely others. He loved them all. In the end he died for them all. And came back for them all. And ascended into heaven for them all. And sitteth at the right hand of God for them all.

He saw the beauty of their diversity. He saw the foolishness of their violence. He knew there was a way to bring the children of God back together without destroying their beautiful, blessed differences. He knew that the Kingdom of God could continue to grow after his ascension. After all, he was the living God of a living Kingdom. And so he made a promise. Standing before the disciples, he said, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” And from last week’s reading: “And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the living God, would come to the children of the living God in his name. Jesus promised that we would never be left alone. Jesus promised us power.

Jesus understood that if the children of the living God could band together with the knowledge that he would forever be with them, then they could build a Kingdom that boldly stood in opposition to the powers and principalities and their violence. For that Kingdom to thrive, though, it had to have that fantastic diversity that reflected the vastness of God’s image. It also had to have the unity of shared purpose.

And so at the time of his ascension Jesus told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem, where people from all over the world were gathered. Then, on the day of Pentecost, suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting in that same Upper Room. 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.

And 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? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

That, my friends, is a good question for us to ponder this glorious Pentecost day. What does this mean? What does this mean that the Spirit of the living God rushed in with full power and manifested as tongues—as language and understanding? What does this mean that the disciples were able to speak in other languages? What does this mean that every single person was able to understand in their own language?

This means that the children of God were all able to communicate with each other again, just as they had back in Babel. But this time was different. They didn’t all look the same, sound the same, want the same. The Holy Spirit made sure that every single different language was spoken and heard and understood. This time they didn’t have a tower to build to rival God. They had a Kingdom to build to do the work of God. They had a shared purpose.

And so was born the Church, the children of God in all their beautiful diversity charged with the shared purpose of building the Kingdom of God, all with the power and company of the Spirit of the living God.

Happy Birthday to us, Church! We were born of fire and the breath of God. We were born with power. We were born with beautiful differences. We were born with shared purpose.

At my old job I had the distinct blessing of hearing dozens of different languages every single day.

English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Romanian
Mandarin, Russian, Turkish
Bambara, Soninke, Hausa, Pulaar, Malinke, Susu, Yoruba
Ki'che, Qanjobal, Mam
Creole, Patois, Krio
Punjabi, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam
KiSwahili, Lingala, ChiNyanja, ChiBemba

Some of these languages maybe you have never heard of before. I certainly hadn't before I started working with these remarkably resilient children. Every time I walk into their midst, I can't help but marvel at the wonder of God's image. These different voices with their different words are breathtakingly beautiful. There are nearly 7,000 languages being spoken today. Countless others have died away. Countless others are being born in pidgins and slangs and on our phones and computers. And somehow, in every single one of these languages you can discern the voice and truth of the living God. You can understand names like Jesus, Iesu, Yushu, Yeshua, Yezu Christu. Like Dios, Deus, Jehovah, Jah. Because of the way they are spoken in voice and body, you can understand words like "mom," and "dad," and "God," and "love."

And if you go into any type of church anywhere in the world, you can understand the basics of what is going on no matter what the language. Trust me, I've been in lots of them—Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Pentecostal, traditional, modern, somber, charismatic, with incense, with eucharist, with baptisms, with deliverance, with healings, with prophecy, with tongues. No matter what, you can understand that God is being praised in the name of Jesus Christ. You can understand when people are in prayer. You can understand when it is time for the Lord's Prayer. You can understand certain songs that have kept their tunes in translation across the globe. Most importantly, you can understand the language of love.

And this, my friends, is what it boils down to. This is our shared purpose, to share that language of love. The Spirit of the living God came upon us so that we could understand love in its thousands of languages and expressions and so that we could share that love in our thousands of languages and expressions—the love of a God who created us, became one with us, died for us, rose again for us, and is with us still, forever breathing new life into us.

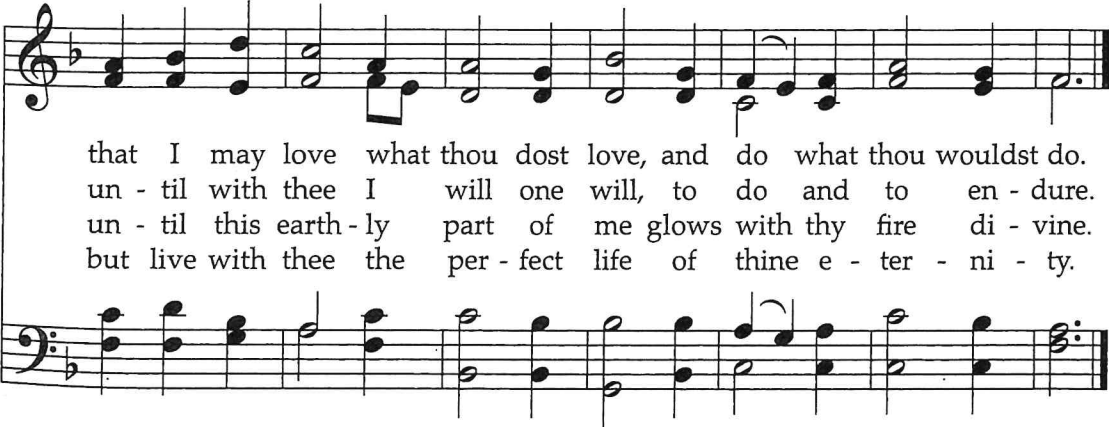
So, wherever we may find ourselves in God's great creation, no matter what language we are speaking, people should know our identity as Christians. They should see our actions and hear our words of love. They should witness us standing up against the evils of exclusion and division and oppression and violence based on language or race or religion or citizenship. They should witness us embracing each other and having the difficult conversations in our different languages. They should witness us repenting and repairing and reconciling. In short, they should know we are Christians by our love, our shared language. And so they should feel the gentle yet powerful, patient yet urgent, soothing yet burning Spirit of the living God moving amongst us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us!

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

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1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,



a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.



A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,



and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

