



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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"Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together."

May 31, 2020

Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Spirit Medley

Traditional

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

Opening Words

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Leader: As we gather together around the fire,
watching the colors ebb and flow from one
into the other,

**People: May we see the Spirit enter in through
mystery and color.**

Leader: Let us see the Holy Spirit at work in others
and in our selves.

**People: Help us to grow our fire to share the Spirit's
movement within our church, our community,
and our world.**

Opening Prayer

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We are waiting for your presence, God. Patient, like a lover sitting by the telephone, waiting for the voice of their beloved. Attentive as a farmer watching clouds for rain, waiting for the parched soil's relief. Intent as a child standing by the road, waiting for the parade to appear. Empty as a satellite dish scanning the heavens, waiting for a message from the stars. Poised as the still arms of a windmill, waiting for the wind's inspiration. Open as the wide sand beach, waiting for the tide's embrace. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Song *God of Grace and God of Glory* #366 (1, 2)

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy pow'r.
Crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his
ways!

From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Confession of our Brokenness

One: When we desire instant results and forget to be
patient

People: **Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

One: When we make self-centered decisions rather
than Christ-centered ones

People: **Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

One: When we forget to exercise a spirit of
gentleness and self-control

People: **Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

One: Gracious and merciful God, grant us your
forgiveness and your love so that we may care
for one another.

People: **Refresh us and renew us with your Holy Spirit
so that we are fruitful and vital disciples of your
Son, Jesus Christ.**

Assurance of God's Love

Those who are in Christ there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see everything has
become new! All this from God with whom we have been
reconciled through Christ.

Song *Spirit of the Living God* #349

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

“Spirit of the Living God” words & music by Daniel Iverson
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LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lessons

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9 (NRSV)

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. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “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.” The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, “Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they

will not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13 (NRSV)

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.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 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?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Sermon

Are We Speaking the Same Language?

Service of Communion

The Invitation

The Bread

**The bread which we break is the communion of the
body of Christ**

The Cup

**The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood
of Christ**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Closing Song *Move in our Midst* #418 (1, 2)

Move in our midst, thou Spirit of God.
Go with us down from thy holy hill.
Walk with us through the storm and the calm.
Spirit of God, go thou with us still.

Touch thou our hands to lead us aright.
Guide us forever, show us thy way.
Transform our darkness into thy light.
Spirit of God, lead thou us today.

"Move in our Midst" words & music by Perry L. Huffaker, Robert Lau
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Benediction

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As you go forth from this place, may the wind of the
Spirit startle your senses and blow through your life;
may the fire of the Spirit scorch your complacency and
light your way. And may the blessing of the Holy One –
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer – rest with you now and
forever more. Amen.

Postlude

Pentecostal Power

Charles Gabriel