



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

May 19, 2024

PRELUDE - Hani

Andante D Major
F. Mendelssohn
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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved of God, pay attention. Did you notice? There are dry bones all around us. In our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our schools, our community and nation and world. They pop up wherever people are parched for love and dignity, provision and flourishing. We notice them, and we wonder:

People: **Will these bones live?**

Leader: Pay attention. Can you hear it? So many of us carry dry bones that clank around in our hearts. Dreams that are dying. Gifts that are languishing. Hopes left undernourished and neglected. Loneliness that eats away at our sense of connection with one another until we wonder:

People: **Can these bones live?**

Leader: Pay attention. Can you feel it? The Holy Spirit breathes among us. Breathe in love. Breathe in provision. Breathe in connection and flourishing. Because the Spirit never quits breathing among us, assuring us:

People: **These bones will live.**

Leader: Pay attention. Can you sense it? God is always putting us back together. In dreams of abundance and visions of cooperation, in the cacophony of voices who share and receive the good news in their own languages, the Spirit revives us and restores us, reminding us:

People: **These bones live, because Love dwells among us, now and always. Thanks be to God!**

(From Discipleship Ministries)

OPENING HYMN FWS #2120 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

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.

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 eons
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

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

Spirit

James K. Manley

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TIME WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH**JOYS AND CONCERNS / CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER***(based on Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38; Romans 4:13-25)*

Though people may turn their backs on us, you do not hide your face from us. Though others may try to take away our hope, you assure us of that future waiting for us. You speak your name, Inscrutable Creator, and it is enough.

When we try to dictate our fears to you, you invite us to follow you into self-denial and service. As we struggle to shape our lifestyle to yours, you carry us with you wherever we go. You speak your good news, Teacher of open hearts, and it is enough.

Though we have done nothing to earn them, you pour out the gifts of grace and mercy upon us. When we stumble over our lack of trust, you set us back on our feet, to follow you into the kingdom. You speak your peace, Breath of Holiness, and it is enough.

God in Community, Holy in One, it is enough that you hear us even as we pray as we are taught,

(Written by Thom Shuman, on his Lectionary Liturgies blog)

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 glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

OFFERTORY MUSIC - Hani**His Eyes Is on the Sparrow**

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel | Arr. Robert J. Hughes

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DOXOLOGY

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

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather on this Pentecost Sunday, we are reminded of the transformative power of your Spirit, breathing life into dry bones and igniting the hearts of your people. Just as you enlivened the early church with the wind and fire of your presence, empower us to prophesy life into the brokenness of our world. May our offerings today be a testament to our faith in your promise of renewal and restoration. Amen.

(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV)

1 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 nation 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, “Men of Judea 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.'

Response

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson | Arr. Benjamin Harlan

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SERMON - William L, Co-Lay Leader

Breathe... and Go!

CLOSING HYMN #538 (Tune: #479) *Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow*

1. Wind who makes all winds that blow,
gusts that bend the sapling low,
gales that heave the sea in waves,
stirrings in the mind's deep caves:
aim your breath with steady power
on your church, this day, this hour.
Raise, renew the life we've lost,
Spirit God of Pentecost.

2. Fire who fuels all fires that burn,
suns around which planets turn,
beacons marking reefs and shoals,
shining truth to guide our souls:
come to us as once you came;
burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and Power, Might and Strength,
fill your church, its breadth and length.

3. Holy Spirit, wind and flame,
move within our mortal frame;
make our hearts an altar pyre;
kindle them with your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze
till our lives, our deeds, and ways
speak that tongue which every land
by your grace shall understand.

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow (ABERYSTWYTH)

Tune: UMH 479 Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Thomas H Troeger | Joseph Parry

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

With a Song Ringing

Ross Anderson

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<https://firstumctorrance.org/giving/>.

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