

Sunday Service: May 24, 2020 – Pentecost Sunday

"A Breath of Fresh Air"



Sounds like the first Pentecost was kind of scary: violent winds and tongues of fire! Sometimes the winds of change are scary but they can also lead to necessary shifts in thinking and behavior!

God's people have always had to adapt as the world changes around them. But riding on those winds of change is the Holy Spirit, guiding and empowering those seeking to remain faithful when "business as usual" is no longer the case.

"Amidst a time of planetary change and disruption, we envision a recovery of our deep connection to each other and our world, led by Christian and other spiritual movements that are freeing leaders and communities to overcome dehumanizing systems of oppression and cooperate in the transforming work of Love." — Center for Action and Contemplation

Links to YouTube video of the service:

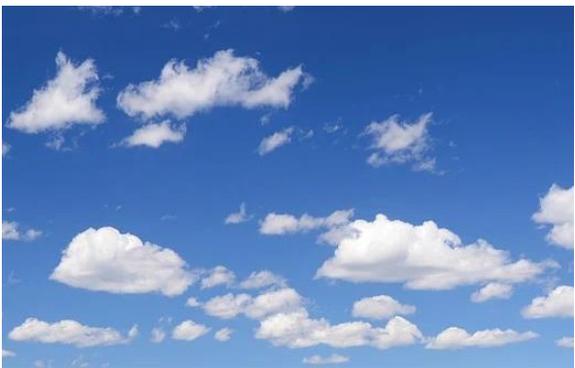
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B23CdrwujN4&feature=youtu.be>

1. GATHERING



- **Prelude:** “Blowin’ in the Wind (Peter, Paul, and Mary)”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aok_1OQJRfA

- **Call to Worship:** Based Psalms 118 (**L:** leader, **P:** people)
 - **L:** A violent wind and tongues of fire!
 - **P:** Leaping and dancing over our heads,
 - **L:** and burning into our consciousness.
 - **P:** Quick, duck - stop, drop and roll!
 - **L:** ‘Cause if you hesitate, you just might get burned!
 - **P:** Strange voices in the room!
 - **L:** Speaking languages we cannot understand,
 - **P:** shrieks of freedom and cries of joy!
 - **L:** Maybe it’s best you start running - head for the cellar
 - **P:** or you too just might get carried away!
 - **L:** A strong wind is blowing!
 - **P:** The answer is blowin’ in the wind,
 - **L:** blowing away all that lies between us and God.
 - **P:** The Holy Spirit continues to shake things up!
 - **L:** The Spirit of God is on the loose and things are a changin’.
 - **P:** Red alert, be very careful or she just might fill your soul
 - **L:** and making you courageous, fearless, and full of joy!
 - **ALL:** Come, oh Spirit of God, and fill us with your power!



“I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness; I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too. I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more.” — Anne Frank

- **Confessional Prayer:** (spoken in unison)
Lord,
Enlighten what is dark in me,
Strengthen what is weak in me,
Mend what is broken in me,
Bind what is bruised in me,
Heal what is sick in me,
And lastly,
resurrect whatever peace and love has died in me.
— Amen



- **Music:** Come Holy Spirit Descend on Us (John L. Bell)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bToCXRGsKJ4>
Be Light for Our Eyes (Marc Coderre, David Haas)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mu55oo4t24Y>

“The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance.”

— Nathaniel Branden

“Acceptance and tolerance and forgiveness, those are life-altering lessons.”

— Jessica Lange

2. HEARING GOD’S WORD

- **Scripture:** Acts 2:1-18
2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
2:2 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.
2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.
2:6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

2:7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?

2:8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

2:16 ...this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

2:17 '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.

2:18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

- **Message: "A Breath of Fresh Air"**



"Capitalism does not permit an even flow of economic resources. With this system, a small privileged few are rich beyond conscience, and almost all others are doomed to be poor at some level. That's the way the system works. And since we know that the system will not change the rules, we are going to have to change the system." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD

- **Singing:** "Spirit of the Living God"
- **Reflections and Responses**
- **Joys and Concerns**

Please pray for:

- Holly as she plans to move back to Fort Collins, cancer-free, as soon as housing is available.
- All those who are suffering financially this time – especially those whose employers are not being sympathetic to their needs during this time.



- Keith and his family while Keith stays with his parents to help with his father’s care.
- Kevin as he begins his new job and visits Washington, DC.
- Bjorn when he returns to Europe on May 29 and for Maurice who will miss him while he’s gone.
- Gloria and Shyerl who are seeking housing.
- And for all those in this city, state, and nation, who are homeless and wondering where they will find shelter and employment.

“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” — Francis of Assisi



- **Sending into God’s World:**
 “Blowin’ in the Wind (Joan Baez and Bob Dylan)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo3HY7Yebjk>



- **Closing**
- **Post Service Conversation**
 Now’s let’s chat with everyone via Zoom!

“Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I, but when the trees bow down their heads, the wind is passing by.” — Christina Rossetti