



Photo by Erin Cusack

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!



Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God, thank You for the surpassing greatness of Your power to us who believe. Because You came to dwell in us on Pentecost, we have Your mighty strength with which You raised Christ from the dead.

Strengthen us in our inner being as we worship you, so that we can know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge and be filled with all the fullness of God.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen



Music to Celebrate the Holy Spirit, Confirmation and the Call to Discipleship

VOLUME 1

living spirit, holy fire

DAVID HAAS *with* Lori True, Tony Alonso, Kate Cuddy,
Tom Franzak, Ray East, Jesse Manibusan, Paul Tate, John Bell,
Marty Haugen, Michael Joncas & Rob Glover

Living Spirit, Holy Fire

Living Spirit, holy fire, burning bright to light our way,
Blaze among us and inspire lives that praise you day by day

Warm us, draw your people near when our love draws weak or cold,
Free our frozen hearts from fear, that each story may be told

Melt away the masks we wear, hiding what we know and feel,
Risking growth, we want to share love in action, love that's real

Open hearts, affirm us all, many splendors, one in you,
We embrace the work, the call, you are making all things new

Veni Sancte Spiritus, Veni Sancte Spiritus,
Veni Sancte Spiritus, Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 100:1-5



O Great Spirit,

Whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze.

We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty.

Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset.

Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us.

Help us learn lesson the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Make us ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes.

So when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. **Amen.**

*Are You
Experiencing the
Holy Spirit in
Your Life?*

PETECOST SUNDAY

- Pentecost Sunday takes place 40 days after Easter Sunday.
- Originally, Pentecost was a Jewish holiday which was held 50 days after Passover as one of the major Jewish feasts.
- According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, the feast became a time to honor the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labors.
- Christians have been celebrating the church's birthday.
- What should we commemorate on this day?

What happened On the Day of Pentecost?

Scripture

Acts 2:1-4

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

- On the day of Pentecost, about 120 disciples of Jesus who were staying at an upper room witnessed to the coming of the Holy Spirit.
 - ✓ They heard a sudden sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven
 - ✓ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.
 - ✓ As the result,
 - all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
 - They then began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them
- All the people around them were amazed and marveled
- Peter explained what it means and delivered a strong message that God made Jesus both the Lord and the Christ (v. 36).
- From this time on, the gospel of Jesus was being spread to the world.

**WHAT IS THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS
EVENT?**

Scripture

John 14:16-17, 26

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

Acts 1:4

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

1. The coming of the Spirit is the fulfillment of God/Jesus' promise.

* Jesus said he will ask Father God to send another Counselor/Comforter (John 14:16)

* Jesus prophesied the event

- "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

✓ God is faithful.

* "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.." (Deut 7:9)

*"O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast." (Ps. 119:89)

2. The indwelling Holy Spirit empowers the hearts of believers.

- Jesus said,
 - “He [God] shall give you another Comforter, that **may abide with you forever**”
 - “But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ... ” (Acts 1:8a)
 - * **the “power”** – strength, capability, ability to function effectively
- The Holy Spirit **dwells in our inner being** when we, according to God’s grace and by faith, confess our sins, ask forgiveness, and surrender our lives to him.
 - * Our identity is on the inside. That is why **God focuses on our souls**, and that is where he brings change and strengthens us
- The result of the coming of the Holy Spirit – they **were empowered** by the Holy Spirit
 - * They were able to speak in different languages
 - * Peter **became bold** to preach that Jesus you killed is the Lord and the Christ
 - compare this with previous attitude of Peter
- The Holy Spirit gives us strength or power in our inner beings

3. The Holy Spirit is our Counselor and Comforter

- Jesus' words:

“He [God] shall give you another Comforter, that **may abide with you forever**”

The original literal meaning the word, “comfort,” is “one who is called to someone’s aid.”

- The indwelling Holy Spirit is “**the Spirit of truth**” – He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you.”
- The Holy Spirit “**searches all things, the deep things of God**” (1 Cor. 2:10)
- The Holy Spirit “**helps us in our weakness.**”
We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And **he who searches our hearts** knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.” (Rom 8:26-27)

Community Prayer

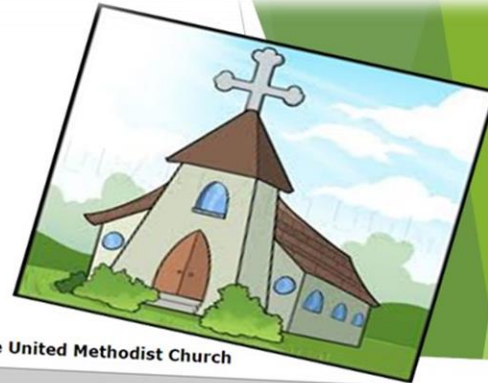
Together we pray . . .

Come Holy Spirit, how we need You! We live surrounded by confusion and downright untruth. What a comfort it is to know that You will always speak God's truth into our lives when we depend on You.

How grateful we are that when Jesus came to earth, that meant that You would come to live in our hearts also. We want to live our lives in meaningful ways, always able to share the truth of God's grace that has been given to us so generously.

It is through the power of Your presence in us that we are overcomers, getting past the power of sin in our lives and those of others, stepping out in faith that shows what it means to trust in You, by what we say and do. AMEN

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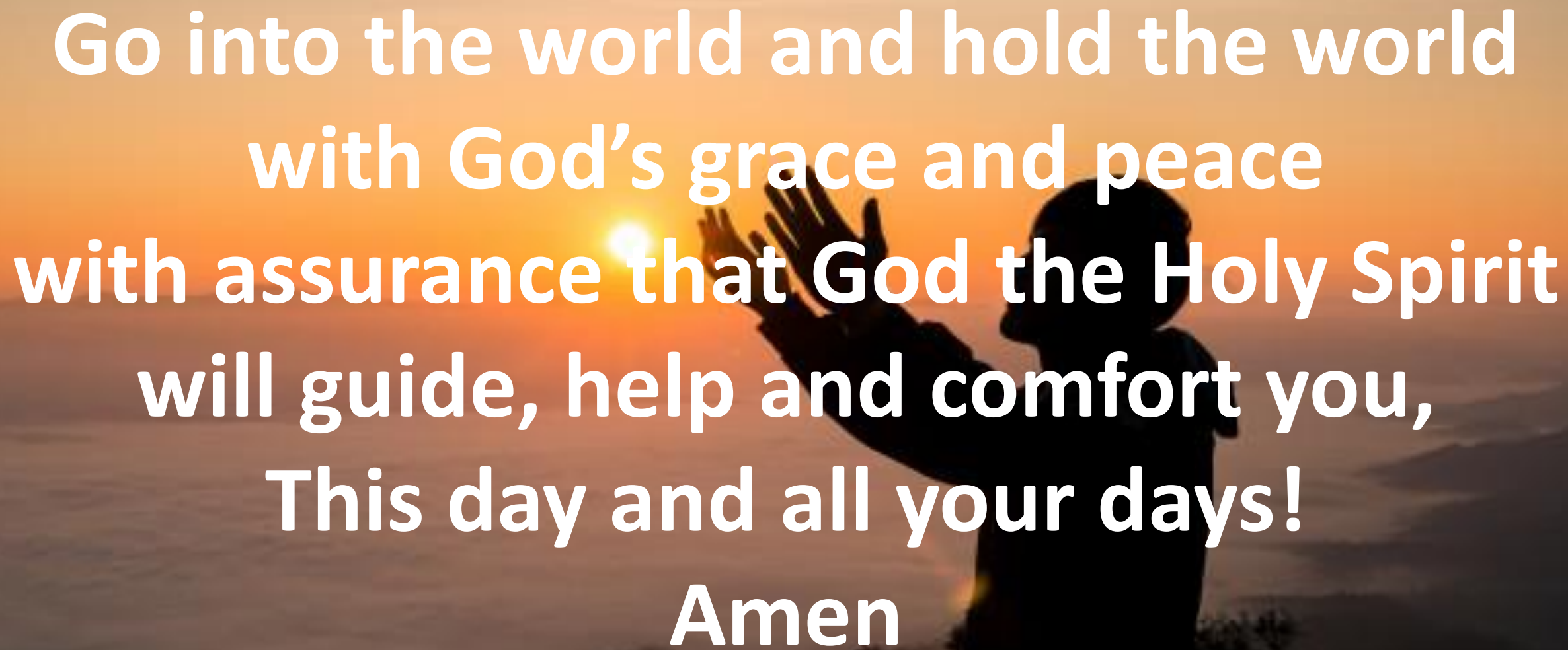
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We give thanks for this wonderful,
generous community of faith.



A silhouette of a person with their hands raised in prayer against a sunset background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The person is standing on a hillside, and the background shows rolling hills and trees.

**Go into the world and hold the world
with God's grace and peace
with assurance that God the Holy Spirit
will guide, help and comfort you,
This day and all your days!
Amen**

Photo by James Gardner