

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 31, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

PENTECOST

May 31, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Pentecost, the day when the Spirit is poured out upon the faithful in Jerusalem. It is a day with previous significance in Judaism, Shavuot, The Feast of Weeks, which commemorates the giving of the law to Moses at Mt. Sinai. It is a High Holy Day in the Christian year, a day when we celebrate the gift of the Spirit and the birth of the church. The music for this service enables us to claim these gifts as the prelude provokes an awareness of the Spirit, the hymn and musical response to the sermon enable us to give thanks for the Spirit, and the postlude reframes our use of "The Church's One Foundation" with images not of the building (which is sacred space for us) but of people — the true church. The stoles we wear are red, a symbol of the tongues of fire that allow people to hear the Gospel in different languages (a reality we will experience today as Amir reads in Farsi, Azamat reads in Russian, Divine reads in Akwapim Twi, Erika reads in Spanish, Pastor Jun reads in Japanese, and Rose reads in German), and the descending dove on each stole represents the Spirit who is given to the church. The streamers offer a visual element to our celebration, as we seek to offer praise to God with all our being. The sermon explores the hesitation Baptists like us seem to have to embracing the Spirit fully — legitimate reasons for hesitation, reasons we need to move past hesitation, and a final word of caution for those who embrace the Spirit — life will change!

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire" VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS
Becky Mercer, flute, with zimblestern and wind chimes

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship."

The Call to Worship and Invocation (responsive) ¹ Leah Reed

LEADER: Spirit of God, we have gathered together in this place to pray and to make ourselves ready for your coming.

PEOPLE: **Give us faith, that when you come like the wind, though we do not see you, yet we may hear what you are saying to us and discern your movement.**

LEADER: Give us courage, that we may not fear the tongues of flame:

PEOPLE: **let all that is unworthy, impure, and sinful be burned from our lives. May we know that it is love that burns so brightly and love that strips away our sin.**

LEADER: Give us an open mind, Lord, that the truth you bring may make its home with us:

PEOPLE: **truth to set us free, truth to guide us and inform us, truth to lead us in the way of your will.**

LEADER: Give us an open heart, Lord,

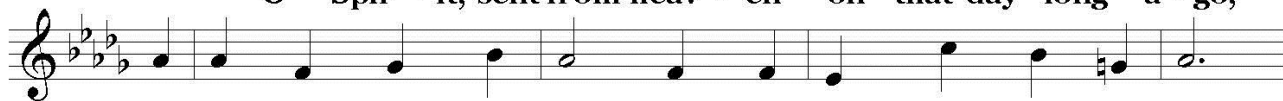
PEOPLE: **that we may seek all people for your realm, and set no limits to the proclaiming of your word.**

LEADER: Holy Spirit, with the whole church we wait for you in every place and in every generation.

PEOPLE: **Come, wind. Come, fire. Come, truth. Come, love. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 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 un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here? —
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and pow - er.
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flamewith 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison) ³

Trey Davis

O God, you fill us with the Spirit of truth, who will teach us everything and guide us into all truth: Keep in us the memory of all that Jesus said. Inspire our meditation and let our thoughts please you, O God, for we rejoice in you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, 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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Gospel

John 7:37–39

³⁷On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

"Moving Past Our Hesitation to Embrace the Spirit" Christopher Chapman

The Prayer of Response (responsive)³

LEADER: God, our Maker, you formed us in your own image and breathed the breath of life into us: Anoint us with your Spirit to proclaim life and hope. When your face is hidden and we are dismayed, send us the light of your Spirit to drive away the shadows and show us the love of Jesus, the first fruits of resurrection. Holy Spirit, Comforter: Breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled heart.

PEOPLE: **Spirit of the living God, fill us with your love.**

LEADER: Holy Spirit, Spirit of truth: Abide with us and show us Jesus and the One who sent him.

PEOPLE: **Spirit of the living God, fill us with your truth.**

LEADER: Holy Spirit, Counselor: Be our witness that we are children of God, heirs and joint heirs with Christ.

PEOPLE: **Spirit of the living God, fill us with your power.**

LEADER: Holy Spirit, Guardian of our memory: Keep safe in us the remembrance of Jesus, through word and sacrament.

PEOPLE: **Spirit of the living God, fill us with your hope.**

LEADER: Holy Spirit, Teacher: Renew our love of your church, and teach us how to serve.

PEOPLE: **Spirit of the living God, fill us with your word.**

LEADER: Holy Spirit, Advocate: Bring us understanding that we may live in peace with all races and nations.

PEOPLE: **Spirit of the living God, fill us with your peace.**

LEADER: Pour your Spirit on us, O God, for the living of these days. Give our sons and daughters courage to prophesy; give old and young alike visions of your rule of peace. With all of creation we wait for Jesus to return in glory, the eternal Sovereign of heaven, come down to reign on earth. By the sending forth of your Spirit, bind us in love and renew the face of the earth. In the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Musical Response

“As the Wind Song”⁴

Swee Hong Lim

Ann Childrey, Caroline Childrey, and Katie Childrey

As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul’s most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that’s born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring, as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.”

The Postlude

“The Church’s One Foundation”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Mary Alice Seals, piano

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The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to great mission work with ties to our church. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. As of May 26, we have received \$1,610 toward our goal of \$10,000.

All church activities are cancelled until further notice.