

## MUMC At-Home Worship: May 23, 2021

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

Holy Spirit, Presence of God! Holy Breath, Life Divine! Holy Wind, Mover and Shaker!  
We throw open our hearts before you; we cast down every barrier to your freedom; we yield to your boundless nature; we welcome your wildness. Too long have we tried to tame the Wind and control what's Wild. At this moment of Earth's great groaning, come, breathe, blow, move upon us all—in the harmony and wholeness you desire for us and all creation!

**Hymn:** *Spirit Song*, United Methodist Hymnal #347

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.  
Let him fill your hearts and satisfy your soul.  
O let him have the things that hold you,  
and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Refrain:

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

O come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy.  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.  
O give him all your tears and sadness; give him all your years of pain,  
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. (Refrain)

*"Spirit Song" words and music by John Wimber, 1979 © Mercy Publishing*

### Scripture Lesson

#### Valley of Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (CEB)

**37** The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?" I said, "Lord God, only you know."

<sup>4</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! <sup>5</sup> The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. <sup>6</sup> I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup> I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. <sup>8</sup> When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead

bodies and let them live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company. <sup>11</sup> He said to me, “Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.’” <sup>12</sup> So now, prophesy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land. <sup>13</sup> You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my breath<sup>[a]</sup> in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I’ve spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says.”

### **Pentecost: Acts 2: 1-21 (CEB)**

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

<sup>5</sup> There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. <sup>7</sup> They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them?” <sup>8</sup> How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” <sup>12</sup> They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

<sup>14</sup> Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! <sup>15</sup> These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! <sup>16</sup> Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*<sup>17</sup> In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams.*

*<sup>18</sup> Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood, before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.<sup>[a]</sup>*

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:**

1. What do you think it would have been like to gather with those disciples in the house in Jerusalem? What do you think it means to wait for God?
2. Notice what the disciples' immediate response was in Acts 1:12-14. What did they do? What didn't they do? Why is this important?
3. How familiar are you with the topic of the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit a confusing or encouraging topic of study for you? Why or why not?

**Hymn:** *She Comes Sailing on the Wind*, The Faith We Sing #2122

Refrain:

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun; on a journey just begun,  
she flies on. And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,  
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth, like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.  
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved up on the earth,  
like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight when the Spirit filled their dreams  
with life and form. Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,  
and then down the ages still she flew on. (Refrain)

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came, a whisper softly calling in the dark,  
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,  
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

Flying to the river, she waited circling high above the child now grown so full of grace.  
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,  
and she carried him away in her embrace. (Refrain)

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world, after dawn returned in flame of  
rising sun, the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,  
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on. (Refrain)

*"She Comes Sailing on the Wind" words and music by Gordon Light, 1985 © Common Cup Co.*

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** *The Gift of Love*, United Methodist Hymnal #408

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Thou I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.

*"The Gift of Love" words by Hal Hopson, 1972; music is Trad. English melody; adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1972. © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.*

**Closing Prayer:** Holy God, bless us as we go from this place that we might be witnesses to your gospel and messengers of your love. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*(Blow out the candle)*