



*“But Who May Abide” by Mike Moyers, 2017.*

# Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor  
Organist and Pianist, Matt Lawrenz  
Pam Kothrade, Musician  
Nancy Charles, Song Leader

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Happy birthday, Church of Christ – happy birthday to you! Birthdays can be a reality check. Today is Pentecost – the birthday of the Church and the perfect day for us to reflect on what it means to be “the Church.” Pentecost is the fiftieth and last day of the Easter season. It is the Christian reinterpretation of the ancient Jewish pilgrimage: the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot, which is celebrated 50 days after Passover. For Christians, Pentecost celebrates the reception of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and the birth of the Church. Today our reading from the Book of Acts recounts the community of early disciples being endowed by the power of God’s Spirit. The musical that will help us dive into the Pentecost story from Acts is P.T. Barnum’s “From Now On” solo in *The Greatest Showman*. Happy birthday, Church!

## Prelude *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* Biery

## **Words of Welcome**

## The Manual of the Dove's Song

Biery

## **Opening Song**

**Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,  
like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might;  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,  
to the Church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**Call to Worship** **Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Rev-O-Lution**

One: God's Spirit has poured out on all flesh,

**All: All our children shall prophesy.**

One: Young people shall see vision

**All: Seniors shall dream dreams.**

One: Even upon those whose voices are marginalized,

**All: God's spirit is poured out, and they will prophesy.**

One: Rejoice, and worship God!

**All: For the Spirit of God has come upon us all!**

# **Opening Prayer**

One: All elders and youth, all you saints, all you sinners, let us worship the still-speaking God together. Gracious God, today our spirits are red with the flames of Pentecost. Be with us as we worship – through reading, singing, praying, listening, giving, playing, and serving. Although we may not be together at this time, help us to feel your spirit on this day that we celebrate the birth of the Body of Christ – the Church! Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen!

## The Gloria

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without  
end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

*Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile*

The book of Ezekiel covers prophecies, visions, and symbolic actions of the Prophet among the Jewish people during the time of exile in Babylon. In this extended allegory, Ezekiel prophesies to a valley of dry bones. The bones are covered in flesh, given breath, and come back to life. In a sense, this story is about the resurrection of Israel from death by God, as God promises to bring the exiles back to Israel. God has power over death, leading to life in unexpected places.

### **The Valley of Dry Bones**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.<sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know."<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.<sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.<sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.<sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."<sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.<sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

### **Contemporary Reading**

Let the light of late afternoon  
shine through chinks in the barn, moving  
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing  
as a woman takes up her needles  
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned  
in long grass. Let the stars appear  
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

### *Let Evening Come*

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.  
Let the wind die down. Let the shed  
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop  
in the oats, to air in the lung  
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't  
be afraid. God does not leave us  
comfortless, so let evening come

### **Jane Kenyon**

### **New Testament**

### [Acts 2:1-21](#)

The Acts of the Apostles portrays Jesus' followers from their days with the risen Jesus in Jerusalem to Paul's mission in Rome. Acts has the same author as Luke's Gospel. In today's reading, during the harvest festival in Jerusalem, the disciples were gathered in a room when they suddenly experienced a rush of wind and a vision of divided tongues of fire appearing on their heads. The Holy Spirit allowed them to speak different languages.

## The Coming of the Holy Spirit

<sup>2</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

## Peter Addresses the Crowd

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> ‘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. <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Sermon

Jesus at the Theatre: From Now On

Rev. Dan Stark

Sermon Response

*Spirit of the Living God*

Hymn 492

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;

make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

Prayers of the People

*Hear Our Prayers, O God...*

**For health & healing:** God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3

We pray for:

~Brian M, who has pneumonia.

~Dan V, who has surgery for malignant melanoma this week.

~Joan B, who is coping with spinal stenosis.

~Joyce N, who lost her house in a fire. She is okay and currently staying with her cousin.

~Laurel D, who broke her wrist and is recovering from surgery. She will be in a cast for several weeks.

~ Mark P – Thanks for all the prayers, they do work. [Hip] Surgery went "great" and all looks good. Please pray for his continued recovery.

~Betty B who continues healing at home and is receiving minimal daily care. Additionally, prayers for Betty as her macular degeneration is progressing.

~Ken and Susie K. as Ken recovers from recent surgery. Prayers for healing.

~Dean M. as he continues to recover from surgery for a ruptured Achilles tendon. This is a challenging time for him as he will be inactive for several more weeks.

~Andrew, cousin of Pastor Dan, as he is hospitalized for a recent heart attack.

~Prayers of thanksgiving for Jack and his family. Jack now has a date of June 1st for bone marrow transplant. Continued prayers for healing and strength for their entire family as two of their children help with their autistic brother while their father continues through the treatments for leukemia. ~Dick and Joan G

~Kim and her husband, friends of Mary Ann M., who has multiple medical issues and is hospitalized again.

~Carl, son-in-law of Ken & Sue K., as he was just diagnosed with liver and colorectal cancer.

~Nick, nephew of Nancy & Brad who has been using heroin again for about 6 months.

~Ian, that continued chemo and upcoming radiation will continue to work as hoped and side effects can remain minimal.

~Rick, Uncle of Laura P who recently had a "routine" heart procedure that did not go well and is now in critical condition. Prayers for the whole family.

~Judy, niece of Ken K as she is on chemo for breast cancer.

~Kathy, Ken's sister who was moved to hospice at a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and vascular dementia.

~Susie K's Aunt Evelyn who is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.

~Dan, friend of Molly as he and his young family navigate his illness.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie S as they navigate Joe's medical issues.

~Dawn & Brad D, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week for her kidneys and Brad as he heals from a broken arm that required several surgeries.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy K, who is at home with Nancy awaiting a liver transplant.

~Continued prayers for Julene F's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy K who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.

Community (from our outdoor prayer box)

~"I have my home back!"

~ "We are hoping to adopt after a long battle with infertility. Please pray not only for us, but our future child's birth mother during her pregnancy."

### 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Prayer Song

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Hymn 461 v 1&2

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love whate'er you love, and do what you would do.  
Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

## **Call to Offering**

## **Worship Ways, adapted**

Church, we are called by the Spirit to continue the work of Jesus, his disciples, and all who sought to build up beloved community. We are equipped by the Spirit with skills, gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences to continue that work. What has God gifted you with and are you open to offering this day to bring about God's beloved community on Earth?

Please give as you are able at the link to follow: [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate)

## **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**A-men.**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

That Pentecost day, with the Spirit in the air, the disciples were suddenly clear about their stories and their intention to share their stories with the world. With these gifts, O God, may we share your story, care for your creation, and extend your love for this world into the world.

**Amen and Amen.**

## **Closing Song**

*Come, O Spirit*

Hymn 329

Tune 8.7.8.7.D: Hymn to Joy

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with Pentecostal power;  
give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour.**

**Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone.**

**Still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.**

**We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yester years;  
for tomorrow's unknown pathway, hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.**

**In the church's pilgrim journey you have led us all the way,  
still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.**

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.**

**Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one: what mystery!**

**We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.**

## **Sending**

One: Happy birthday to you,  
Happy birthday to you,  
Happy birthday, Church of Christ,  
Happy birthday to you!

## **Postlude**

*Trumpet Tune*

German

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways*

## **Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!**

Patricia Freitag May 23  
Sophie Malecki May 24  
Ben Clark May 24  
Pamela Kothrade May 28  
Sandra Wegner May 29  
Jacob Heino May 30  
Kirstyn Heino May 30

## **Thanks**

Dear Christ Church Family,

Mike and I would like to say how humbled and grateful we are to have received your generous outpouring of gifts, cards, messages of appreciation and good wishes for our retirement. We were blessed to have been part of the Christ Church community for the spiritual guidance, opportunities, growth, and friendships it provided to us during our 35 years of membership. While we begin another part of our journey of life we will take many fond memories with us and keep them close to our hearts. With love and appreciation, Mike and Debbie Behling

Thank you everyone for your thoughts and prayers. My tumor has not grown in 6 months. My next MRI isn't for another 12 months. I am so incredibly grateful. Thank you, Christ Church and thanks be to God! ~Pam Kothrade

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark,  
please email [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org).

Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently worshiping online-only until June 6<sup>th</sup>.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate)  
or by mailing a check to  
Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

