

Worship for May 23, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC - Oriental Dance, Enrique Granados
Grace Ludtke, harp

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP
Rev. Nathan Sell

One: The Day of Pentecost is here!
God's children have gathered in this place:
All: Come Holy Spirit!
One: Come, Spirit of adoption,
and open our hearts to our sisters and brothers:
All: Come, Holy Spirit!
One: Come, Spirit of peace,
and calm our trembling hearts:
All: Come, Holy Spirit!
One: Come, Breath of God,
and overturn our conventional lives:
All: Come, Holy Spirit!

- (adapted from prayer written by Thom Shuman)

PRELUDE – Fire Dance, David Watkins
Grace Ludtke, harp

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, thank you for your spirit breaking down barriers within and without
Barriers that distort our ability to lead a life fully integrated
with you and your ways
Forgive us for the times we have deliberately resisted the Spirit's work
Life giving spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Forgive us God for the barriers we create within ourselves,
Barriers that resist your healing work
and prevent us moving toward wholeness.
Forgive our self-centeredness, our anger,
our fear of change, our lack of trust in your love.
Life giving spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Forgive us God, for the barriers we create between us and you,
Barriers that separate us from your love
and the assurance of your salvation.
Forgive our busyness, our independence, our desire to go our own way.
Life giving spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Forgive us God, for the barriers we create between us and each other,
Barriers that separate us from neighbors near and far
and inhibit mutual love and care.

Forgive our resentment of others, our love of control,
our indifference to the poor.

Life giving spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Forgive us God, for the barriers we create between us
and your beautiful creation,

Barriers that abuse your world and deny our responsibility as stewards.

Forgive our greed, our misuse of resources, our pollution of the environment.

Life giving spirit, **have mercy on us.**

God, by the power of your spirit, free us and break down these barriers.

Turn us away from the bondage of a life lived for ourselves and our own desires,

May your spirit guide us into the freedom of life lived for you and your purposes.

Life giving spirit, **have mercy on us.**

—written by Christine Sine

HYMN – Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, Hymn 291

Starmount Ensemble

Refrain:

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons
you called to each thing,
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings." (Refrain)

You swept through the desert;
you stung with the sand;
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land.
When they were confounded
with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. (Refrain)

You sang in a stable;
you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still.
And down in the city,
you called once again
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)

You call from tomorrow;
you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions;
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise. (Refrain)

SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 2:1-21

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

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

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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'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.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

SERMON – *Fire*
Rev. Nate Sell

RESPONSE TO GRACE
Apostle's Creed

ANTHEM – Largo and Allegro from Concerto in D Major, Antonio Vivaldi
Grace Ludtke, harp; Michael Parker, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION