

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

We have gathered from many places, O God, and your Holy Spirit is what brings us together. Give us your fire of your love and gifts of communication that all may be brought together in your saving grace through how we live our lives in you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ Human pride and egoism always create divisions, build walls of indifference, hate and violence. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, makes hearts capable of understanding the languages of all, as it re-establishes the bridge of authentic communication between earth and Heaven. *Pope Benedict XVI*
- ❖ It shouldn't freak you out to realize that God's eyes are on you. Because God doesn't see you through eyes of disapproval or disappointment. God's presence is not a sign of condemnation. It's actually an invitation. God is present with you, through the Holy Spirit, because God intends to uproot you from the tyranny of the familiar, shatter the monotonous life you've had. And take you on an adventure. *Steven Furtick* (*Baptist Pastor*, *Author*, *Song Writer*)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: On the day of Pentecost, the apostles and others were gathered together in

expectation.

People: So, we have come in hope and faith.

Leader: On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and enabled them to

speak.

People: Come, Holy Spirit! Help us to communicate.

Leader: And from that day barriers of separation have been broken.

People: Continue to bring us together, Divine Spirit.

PRAISE SONG: Every Time I Feel the Spirit (music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

All: Holy Spirit, you bring us the gift of community. Yet we have not always nourished this gift. We have not always opened our hands to friendship. We have enjoyed stepping on the toes of others far too often. We have carried immense baggage and used it as obstacles between us and others. We have preferred superiority to kindness, and false appearances to truthful living. We have cultivated the admiration of the strong at the expense of nourishing relationships with those on the margins. You know, Holy Spirit, when we have not lived up to the best of community with each other, and thus not nourished our relationships with you. Forgive us, we pray.

(time for silent prayer)

Leader: Those who ask for God's forgiveness with a truthful heart are never turned away. Accept God's mercy and grow to be more open to community each day, with each other and with God.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: One Spirit (music at end of bulletin)

THE READINGS

THE LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

Gathered in Jerusalem after Jesus' unusual earthly departure, but also for the celebration of the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the disciples had a unique experience involving tongues of fire and wind. Other people there for the Pentecost festivities experienced the wind and gathered together discovering the disciples were speaking in their languages. Peter then addresses them saying what was happening was fulfillment of the Old Testament prophet Joel's words that God would send His spirit into people resulting in many unusual experiences and a new sense of well-being or salvation.

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."

THE GOSPEL:

John 7:37-39

Like Pentecost, an earlier Jewish festival of Booths, or Tabernacles, would also bring people to Jerusalem. During one of those times, Jesus utters these words about himself as living water in the Jewish temple area. The writer of John adds that He was talking about the Spirit which was not yet present because Jesus had not yet been glorified, a reference to His death and resurrection.

On 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, and 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." 'Now 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.

MESSAGE: "Pentecost: To Be Continued" Pastor David School

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: Send Down the Fire (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

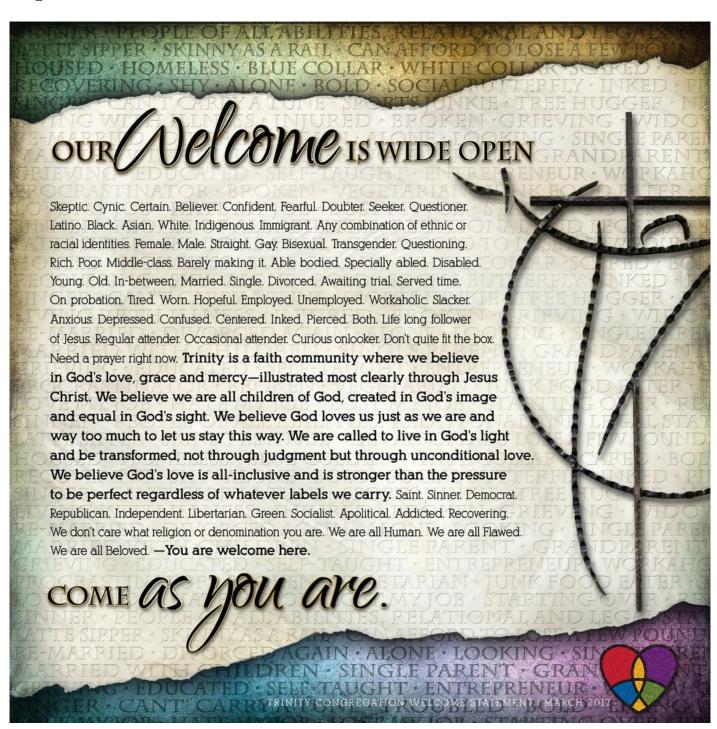
Leader: The Holy Spirit is upon you to bless and empower you. Go, to keep the fires of God's love and justice burning wherever and whenever you can. Keep that spark burning in your heart and soul. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: Send Us Out (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL

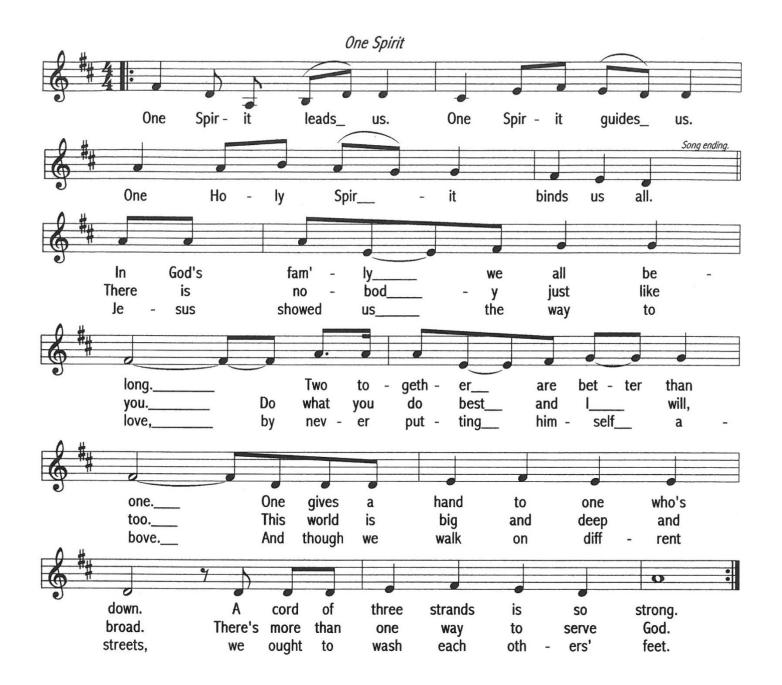
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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