

## **Dear Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church Family,**

Some weeks inspiration remains elusive; we have hopes to accomplish items on the "To-Do" list. As we survey the previous week, we question ourselves and others about the lack of finished tasks. We rush to blame our lack of energy on the rainy and gray days we are experiencing here in Western North Carolina. We point to the continuing details of the nightmare of COVID-19 and how it has created so many "closed" signs on businesses, schools, libraries, theaters. Some might even say the Church is closed.

This week, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. The Greek word is the name for an Israelite Feast of Weeks and is the second of Israel's classical pilgrim feasts: Passover, Weeks and Booths. Pentecost originated as an agricultural feast that celebrated the end of the grain harvest and then moved to a celebration of the giving of the law at Sinai. For Christians, Pentecost became the celebration of the "birthday of the Church." Pentecost points us back to a story in Genesis 11 where a group of people were scattered all over the Earth and spoke in languages that none of them could understand (The Tower of Babel). Today, in the story from Acts, we read about a group of diverse Galileans gathered in one place; they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. While their languages previously were numerous, they began to hear in their native languages because of the infusion of the Spirit's work in unifying the diverse group of Jews and Jewish converts into a gifted One Body commissioned to spread the Good News of living water given freely by Christ Jesus.

In light of Pentecost and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to remember The Church has faced difficult times throughout history. We might think our inspiration is self-generated or even worse, pastor generated. Inspiration and power come from the Holy Spirit. The Good News of God's work in the Holy Spirit invites us to open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us and to remember the Church is not a historic building. The Church may have left the building for an indeterminate time (remember our cycle was to gather in the building every Sunday and to disperse into the community), but The Church continues as people redeemed by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to gather by another means (virtually) and to continue to participate in the ministry of becoming one body in this glorious and divine work of God.

I have appreciated praying the Psalm for this week. I find the invitation to celebrate the power of the Spirit as a call to embrace or to open myself fully to the power and gift of the Spirit. If we continue to remain open to the Spirit's leadership, I know as a Christ-followers, we invite others to experience the renewal and creativity that the Holy Spirit brings to the Church in this time where healing, peace, love, mercy, forgiveness, grace are needed. We are invited to let go of our need for control and experience God's leadership in the Holy Spirit. Join me and your sisters and brothers as we "sing praise to our God while we have our being. May our meditation be pleasing to him, for we rejoice in the LORD!"

I believe the Holy Spirit continues to work in and through those of us who present ourselves as open and willing. I want to close by sharing words from the Apostle Paul from Ephesians 4:30-32 that remind us about our Christian responsibility and influence. "And do not sadden the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

In deep love and desire for the Spirit's renewal among our world,

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Home Worship for Community Worship  
Pentecost, May 31, 2020**

<https://youtu.be/ceU8IRV8s4w>

**PRELUDE**

We Implore God the Holy Spirit, Dietrich Buxtehude

**GREETING**

*L: Come, Holy Spirit. Inspire our hearts with your fiery presence!*

***P: Let your flame burn within us, stirring us to action.***

*L: Come, Holy Spirit. Energize our lives to work for God.*

***P: Let your wind of hope swirl around us, lifting and moving us from complacency.***

*L: Come, Holy Spirit. Pour your blessing on us.*

***P: Let your presence challenge us to proclaim God's presence and love in everything we say and do. AMEN.***

**HYMN #500**

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

*Note, there will be an interlude before the last stanza*

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**INVOCATION**

***Almighty God, your Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, hidden in an upper room in Jerusalem. A violent wind and tongues of fire were the symbols of a new thing happening in their lives. May your Holy Spirit burst into our lives today, encouraging and inspiring us to proclaim boldly the good news of Jesus Christ who offers healing and hope to all people. AMEN.***

**GLORIA PATRI (UMH #70)**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Acts 2:1-21

- 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
- 2:2 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.
- 2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
- 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
- 2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.
- 2:6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
- 2:7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
- 2:8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
- 2:9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
- 2:11 Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."
- 2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"
- 2:13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."
- 2:14 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.
- 2:15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
- 2:16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
- 2:17 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.
- 2:18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
- 2:19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- 2:20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- 2:21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

### **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

104:24 O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**104:25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.**

104:26 There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

**104:27 These all look to you to give them their food in due season;**

104:28 when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**104:29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

104:30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

**104:31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works--**

104:32 who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

**104:33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

104:34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

**104:35b Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!**

### **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

12:3b No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

12:5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;

12:6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

12:8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

12:10 to 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.

12:11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

12:12 For 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.

12:13 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."

### **John 7:37-39**

- 7:37 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,
- 7:38 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.'"
- 7:39 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.

**L:** *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's Pentecost people.*

**P:** *Thanks be to God!*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*We aren't ready, Lord. It is easier for us to hide in the upper rooms of our lives, to let the world go by and not acknowledge your presence. But you have challenged us to come alive again with your love and words of healing mercy. Forgive our hesitant witness and our complacent spirits. Heal our fears and our wounds. Help us to be agents of healing and hope for others. Challenge and inspire us to overcome our feelings of inadequacy and remind us that you have called us beloved and have given us what we need to proclaim your Good News. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.*

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Don't be afraid! God's Holy Spirit brings you healing comfort and hope. You are being prepared to serve God in some mighty ways. Rejoice! God's Holy Spirit is with you always. AMEN.*

### **HOMILY**

#### **STATEMENT OF FAITH** ("A Modern Affirmation") (UMH) #885

*L: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:*

*P: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.*

## OFFERING

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

## OFFERTORY

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song, arr. John Carter

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*For all you have given, for all we have received, we give you thanks.  
We bring before you our gifts of substance and the gift of our lives.  
We bring our passion and joy and surprise, our visions and dreams.  
May they refresh and enliven our church and community, as the wind of your  
Spirit did long ago. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN #544

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song  
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## BENEDICTION

*God, out of God's great love, has created you. Jesus Christ, out of his great love, has redeemed you. The Holy Spirit, out of great love, has lifted and inspired you to go in peace and service throughout God's world, proclaiming the good news of peace, love, hope, and joy to all. Go in peace. **AMEN.***

## POSTLUDE

All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name, arr. David Cherwien

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Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

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Lay Leaders: Barbara Kline: 828-862-5585 and Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Liturgist: John Holbrook

## Announcements

The Bishop of Western North Carolina sent communication last week that United Methodist Churches in our Conference will continue to worship w/ a 10-person maximum limit and online through the end of June. The Worship Committee has been receiving information and preparing for how we carefully re-open. All of us are anxious to worship in the sanctuary again, but we also practice the Three General Rules provided by John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement in America: Rule 1) Do no harm, Rule 2) Do good, Rule 3) Stay in Love with God. Our first priority remains the wellbeing and safety of parishioners. The guidelines we will have to follow when we are able to re-open are a daunting challenge.

Many thanks to **Cynthia and Stephen Wood**, volunteers to feed The Haven residents for the weekend of May 29-31. The blessing of local mission work is so gratifying because we see the men, women and children benefited. Cynthia and Stephen will be providing two breakfasts and two dinners to this shelter. Lake Toxaway United Methodist provides this gift of time and resources four times per year. Fred Markert, Outreach committee chair, asks for volunteers to feed the homeless on the weekends of August 14th and October 2, 2020. To volunteer please contact Fred Markert at [fredmarkert47@gmail.com](mailto:fredmarkert47@gmail.com) or 828-553-3303.

The Administrative Council will meet on Friday, June 12 at 9 am. If you are a member of the Council, you will receive a Zoom Invite. If you are not a member and would like to attend the meeting, please email Tom Blackstock as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You can email Tom @ [tomblackstock@gmail.com](mailto:tomblackstock@gmail.com).

If you are a committee chair and need to schedule a socially distanced meeting in the Fellowship Hall, please continue to use the calendar located in the Fellowship Hall or call/e-mail Saunders to schedule: 469-569-2314 (cell), [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org)

**We have quarterly devotionals from Our Daily Bread available. The next copy will cover June – August. If you are interested in a copy, please reach out to Saunders, our Church Administrator 469-569-2314 (cell), [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org).**

SANCTIFYING AND PERFECTING GRACE

# 500 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?  
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;  
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wear it from earth; through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.  
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear.  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh,  
 the kin - dling of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!  
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

WORDS: George Croly, 1867 (Gal. 5:25)  
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE  
 10 10.10 10



## Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song 544

Unison

1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to her  
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

new flame's ea - ger might: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be - yond com - pare: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1981 (Acts 2)  
 MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1968

BRIDEGROOM  
 87.87.6

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BORN OF THE SPIRIT, *see further:*

324 Hail Thee, Festival Day

332 Spirit of Faith, Come Down