

From Fear to Faith...

...Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

October 17, 2021

Worship Service



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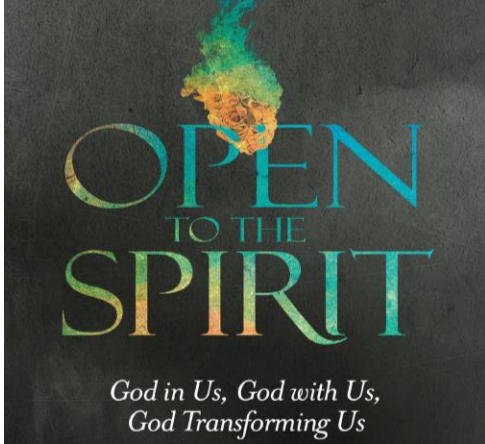
The Worship of God

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Part 4 of Sailboat Church Series

Welcome and Announcements

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude....



Writing from her hospital bed, Robin Johnson says: "Presently I am in the hospital. I have been here for eight days. Throughout these very long days I have been in contact with one angel. When you have a close relationship with God, you can recognize God at work in your life and in the lives of others. Nurse Kathy turned around my attitude and my physical recovery by her care." Johnson's point is that when you're guided by the Holy Spirit, God will use you, perhaps as a guide, or what she calls an angel, to help others.

How open are you to the presence of the Spirit, or angels, in your life? Consider opening your eyes and ears and hearts ever wider that you might receive the blessings God desires for you.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

- Based on Psalm 104

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

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

L: When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

P: *May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.*

A: *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and may our praise rise high to greet him!*

*Hymn of Praise

All Creatures of Our God and King

455, vs. 1,2&5

*All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

And everyone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part.
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and cast on God your care!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Prayer of Confession

Holy Spirit, our lives would be lost without your precious voice whispering to our hearts and minds. And yet, so often we dismiss those nudgings as our conscience or our own human thoughts. Forgive us for dismissing you, for not recognizing your presence. We often miss you altogether because we are so distracted by our own comings and goings. How little time we take to stop and listen for our voice. Spirit, we know that you are alive and working, and we don't want to miss the messages you have for us. Thank you for truly knowing our hearts. We love you and desire to honor you with our lives. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Do not be afraid. Our Comforter and Advocate has come.

P: We will rejoice in the knowledge that ALL is forgiven.

L: People of the Spirit, LISTEN – the wind that drives the heavens – the wind that soars above and beyond us all, unifies us in God's love.

P: We will keep the Spirit's flame alight within our hearts, seeking the new birth in Christ that is promised to all.

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel -

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson *Romans 8: 22-27*



Lay Leader

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: *Thanks be to God.*

Special Music

Shout to the North

Martin Smith

Second Lesson

John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15 The Work of the Spirit

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

In the Power of the Spirit
Responding to the Word

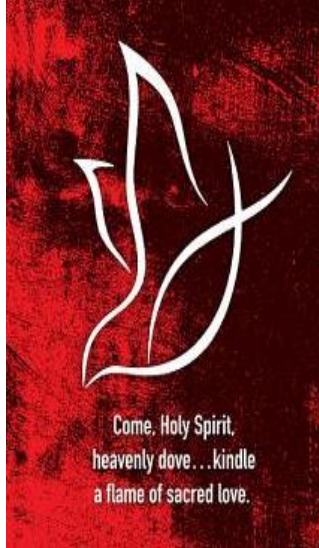
*Hymn

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

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1-Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
 With all thy quickening powers;
 Kindle a flame of sacred love
 In these cold hearts of ours.

2-In vain we tune our formal songs;
 In vain we strive to rise;
 Hosannas languish on our tongues,
 And our devotion dies.



3-Dear Lord, and shall we ever live
 At this poor dying rate?
 Our love so faint, so cold to thee,
 And thine to us so great!

4-Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
 With all thy quickening powers;
 Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,
 And that shall kindle ours.

*Affirmation of Faith

*Martin Luther's Commentary on the Holy Spirit
 in the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed*

I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church, day after day, he fully forgives me sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you.
 I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
 And anytime I don't know what to do,
 I cast all my cares upon you.*



The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts



God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.

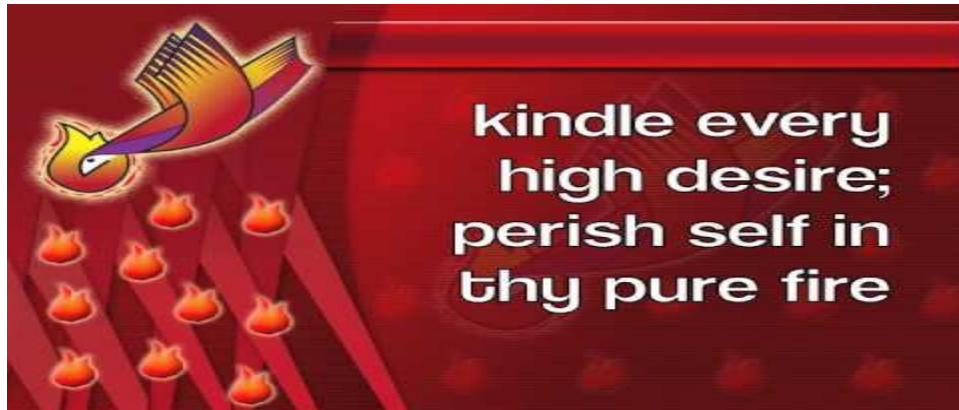
Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for all the way you provide for us and bless us. Make us generous stewards of these blessings that your name and Good News might be spread throughout our community, as you use us for your work. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

321



*1 -Holy Spirit, truth divine,
Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light,
Wake my spirit, clear my sight.*

*3-Holy Spirit, power divine,
Fill and nerve this will of mine;
By thee may I strongly live,
Bravely bear, and nobly strive.*

*2-Holy Spirit, love divine,
Glow within this heart of mine;
Kindle every high desire;
Perish self in thy pure fire.*

*4-Holy Spirit, right divine,
Make my conscience wholly thine;
Be my law, and I shall be,
Firmly bound, forever free.*

Blessing

L: May the Spirit of God guide you into all truth as you go out into the world this week.

P: *May our ears be attentive to the still small voice that tells us that we are loved – that we are valuable – that we belong to God.*

L: Let the message of the Holy Spirit transform your actions as you seek to follow its gentle guiding. Go now in the peace of the Spirit. And may the blessings...

Response

*He Is Lord - He is Lord, he is Lord. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

