

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David
May 17, 2015 PENTECOST
I FEEL THE WIND OF GOD



When we feel alone, when we feel rejected

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

When we feel drained and dried up, and we can't give any more,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

When we are unsure of how to move or where to go or what to do,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

*Come, Holy Spirit, revive us, move in us,
and encourage us on the journey of faith.*

Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Amen!

Hymn: She comes sailing

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Gathering: *God, the light of your Spirit has fallen upon us, The seal of your ownership is on us, You have placed the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Like tongues of fire it has renewed and restored. In our rising and our sleeping, In our working and our playing, In our joys and in our sorrows, Your Spirit's brightness has dispelled the darkness, In our loving and caring, In our touching and our listening, In our thoughts and in our actions, God's Spirit has brought life out of death. (Pause to invite the Holy Spirit into your day's activities) God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire. It filled those that were empty, It empowered those that were weary. God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire. It brought together those that were divided, It reassured those who were afraid. God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire. By its power we can walk together as one, By its power we can find strength to share. God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire. By its power we can find freedom in loving each other, By its power we can find life in you.*

Hymn: Spirit of Gentleness (1-2)

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*The Healing of the Spirit: For those whose lives are broken by distress **May the God of healing restore you.** For those whose lives are broken by fear **May the God of healing restore you.** For those whose lives are broken by anger **May the God of healing restore you.** For those whose lives are broken by pain **May the God of healing restore you.** For those whose lives are broken by illness **May the God of healing restore you.** For those whose lives are broken by sin **May the God of healing restore you.** God of healing gently touch these lives with your Spirit. Bring warmth and comfort life and wholeness, restoration, into fractured lives, and souls.*

Hymn: Spirit of Gentleness (3-4)

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John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 "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. "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 judgment: 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 judgment, 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.

As we gather at this table today, we hear once again Jesus' promise that an Advocate is coming; in fact One who has already come in the gift of the Holy Spirit, who comes at times like a rough and cleansing wind scattering our doubts and dispersing our sorrows; like fire in the sky, the lightning and the tongues of flames that manifest God's power. Sometimes the Spirit falls on the world like a gentle breeze that moves the curtains at the window and brings relief from the heat of the day, quiet and reassuring. God's Spirit comes not as danger but as blessing, not as threat but as promise, not as fearsome but as kindly; healing our brokenness, calming our spirits, empowering us to be disciples of the good news that is ours in Jesus Christ. The gift of the Spirit shows us that God means for us well, that the One who comes bringing God's judgment is not only just but also merciful. (Rev. Jon Walton)

1. **What meaning does this passage hold for you?**
2. **What does the Holy Spirit mean for you?**
3. **So what makes us uneasy about the concept of the Holy Spirit?**
4. **What do you feel that you are empowered to advocate**

in the world?

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of joy be with you.

And with you as well.

We are called to share the gospel with all we meet.

**God fills our hearts, as well as our hands,
to bring healing and hope to the world.**

Join in singing God's praise as we gather around the Table.

**As streams of joy and wonder pour into us,
so our songs of thanksgiving flood through all creation.**

*You stood among chaos, Ever Watchful God,
and called forth creation in all its beauty:*

*rooting oak trees in the rich loam of your Word,
watering seeds with the Spirit's showers,
using goodness to pave the paths
through the garden of hope and grace designed
for those you shaped in your image.*

*You called to us to pay close attention,
but we chose to follow sin's directions,
making death our ultimate destination.*

*Prophets were sent to take the witness stand,
placing their hands on our hearts
to offer testimony concerning your hopes,
but we continued to listen
to temptations broken promises.*

*So Jesus came to show us how
to walk the right paths,
to do the right things,
to be people of righteousness and justice.*

*With those who listen to your heart,
with those who stumble along the way,
we lift our praise to you:*

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who gives us eternal life.
All creation joins in praising your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who sanctifies us.
Hosanna in the highest!**

*In your holiness, Tender God, we find life,
and in that blessing names Jesus, we find our Friend.*

*Seeing us sitting in chairs warmed by foolishness,
he came to pull us to our feet,
to offer us a seat handcrafted by his grace.*

*Noticing how we tended to listen only to seductive whispers,
he came singing songs composed
in the depths of your compassionate heart.*

*Watching our tendencies to drift through life
like dandelion seed heads floating on temptation,
he came to plant us deep within your forgiveness,
watering us with the spring showers of resurrection
he brought with him on that first Easter morning.*

*As we seek to walk the paths of righteousness,
as we long to bear witness to Jesus in our time,
we speak of that mystery called faith:*

***Dying, Jesus destroyed the power of death;
being raised to life, Jesus destroyed death's sting;
coming for us, Jesus will guide us from death to eternity with
God.***

*It is here at this Table,
where the Spirit is poured out
upon the gifts of the bread and the cup,
that we know of your love and grace.
Made whole by the brokenness of the bread,
we would go to bring words of hope
to all who have been told they are worthless,
to strengthen all weakened by grief and loss.
Watered by the goodness of the cup,
we would offer compassion
to everyone who has been hurt,*

*we would carry hope to all
whose hearts are emptied by despair.*

*And when we are gathered with our sisters and brothers
around your Feast of the Lamb in glory,
we will bring our songs of joy to you,
planted forever and ever in the depths of your heart,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.*

Sending

*From the comfort of this place,
to the discomfort of discipleship,*

we will go to serve your people, Loving God.

*Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry,
tutoring children after school,*

we will go to wrap others in your grace, Jesus our Brother.

Listening to the stories of the ignored,

learning the language of our newest neighbors,

***we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment,
Spirit of Wisdom.***

Hymn: You are holy

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Invitation: *"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Thanks be to God. Come, everything is ready. Come to the welcome table where the Spirit of God is present, an Advocate for us. And do not be anxious but be at peace because, when the Advocate comes, it will be like friends seated at a table together before a great feast where all are welcome, and all are forgiven, and all are made new again.*

Hymn: One bread, one body

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Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. We celebrate the Spirit of God, Who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness. We praise You, Spirit of God. We celebrate the Spirit of God, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through Him, made the life of God available to all. We praise You, Spirit of God. We celebrate the Spirit of God, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the*

Kingdom of God. We praise You, Spirit of God. And so, as we gather at the Lord's table, we recognise the Spirit's Presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence.

Communion

Prayer following communion: *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for this meal of remembrance; And for coming to us, in the Spirit's power, as we have shared it. **May the love we find at this table be reflected in our lives; may the power we receive at this table make us peacemakers and healers; and may the Spirit who fills us again at this table lead us to be those who proclaim God's Kingdom in every word we speak and in everything we do. For Jesus' Sake. Amen.***

Hymn: Breathe on me (3-4)

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*Sending: Jesus said: the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.***