

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Pentecost

May 19, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Preschool Board, Monday (5/20) at 7 PM.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (5/21) at 11 AM.
- Women's Breakfast at Manny's, Wednesday (5/22) at 9 AM.
- Esther Circle, Wednesday (5/22) at 9:30 AM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

MANY: O rushing wild spirit of God, pour out the fire of love upon us!

ONE: Unfurl your language upon our lips; unlock our minds to embrace all possibility; unleash our hearts so your justice flows freely.

MANY: O rushing wild spirit of God, pour out the fire of love upon us!

ONE: May your breeze bring health and wholeness; may your breath heat our resolve; may your Spirit storm the earth with mercy and grace.

MANY: O rushing wild spirit of God, pour out the fire of love upon us!

ONE: Set us free from self-doubt; make us listeners as we seek awareness; shake us awake when we forget our privilege. O rushing wild spirit of God, pour out the fire of love upon us! Amen. Amen.

MANY: Amen!

HYMN

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

EBENEZER

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
Come with Pentecostal power;
Give the church a stronger vision;
Help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation,
Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
Still the church is called to mission
That God's love shall be made known.**

**We would raise our alleluias
For the grace of yester-years;
For tomorrow's unknown pathway,
Hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.
In the church's pilgrim journey
You have led us all the way;
Still in presence move before us,
Fire by night and cloud by day.**

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
Give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise you,
Glorify your holy name.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Three in One: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas
Now and through eternity.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: You call us to be your voices in this world

MANY: And we stay silent.

ONE: You call us to be your hands in this world

MANY: And we keep them hidden.

ONE: You call us to be your feet in this world

MANY: And we go our own way.

ONE: When we meet those who are doubting

MANY: And say nothing, forgive us.

ONE: When we meet those who need your touch

MANY: And do nothing, forgive us.

ONE: When we are called to take up your cross

MANY: And carry nothing, forgive us.

ONE: Breathe life into these bones

MANY: Bring freedom to these lives

ONE: That we might declare with heart and soul and voice that

MANY: You are our Lord and our God. Amen!

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Hear the great good news of our faith: the Spirit is alive! Breathe, children of God, breathe the fresh winds of the Spirit. Taste, children of God, taste the quenching waters of God's love. Touch, children of God, touch the heat of God's passion for justice. Inhale the sweet fragrance of mercy and compassion. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

MANY: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me *GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Sung*)

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

READER'S THEATER: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

EZEKIEL: God had a hold on me, and I couldn't escape it. The divine wind of the Eternal One picked me up and set me down in the middle of the valley, but this time it was full of bones. God led me through the bones. There were piles of bones everywhere in the valley—dry bones left unburied.

GOD: Son of man, do you think these bones can live?

EZEKIEL: Eternal Lord, certainly You know the answer better than I do.

GOD: I do. Prophecy to these bones. Tell them to listen to what the Eternal Lord says to them: “Dry bones, I will breathe breath into you, and you will come alive. I will attach muscles and tendons to you, cause flesh to grow over them and cover you with skin. I will breathe breath into you, and you will come alive. After this happens, you will know that I am the Eternal.”

EZEKIEL: So I did what God told me to do: I prophesied to the bones. As I was speaking, I heard a loud noise—a rattling sound—and all the bones began to come together and form complete skeletons. I watched and saw muscles and tendons attach to the bones, flesh grow over them, and skin wrap itself around the reforming bodies. But there was still no breath in them.

GOD: Prophecy to the breath. Speak, son of man, and tell them what the Eternal Lord has to say: “O sweet breath, come from the four winds and breathe into these who have been killed. Make these corpses come alive.”

EZEKIEL: So I did what God told me to do: I prophesied to the breath. As I was speaking, breath invaded the lifeless. The bodies came alive and stood on their feet. I realized then I was looking at a great army.

GOD: Son of man, these bones are the entire community of Israel. They keep saying, “Our bones are dry now, picked clean by scavengers. All hope is gone. Our nation is lost.”

EZEKIEL: He told me to prophesy and tell them what He said.

GOD: Pay attention, My people! I am going to open your graves and bring you back to life! I will carry you straight back to the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Eternal One. I will breathe My Spirit into you, and you will be alive once again. I will place you back in your own land. After that you will know I, the Eternal, have done what I said I would do.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:1-21

SERMON

God's Anatomy Lesson

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

**Come down, O Love Divine;
Seek out this soul of mine,
And visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near;
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace,
Till Love creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

ONE: 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.

MANY: Like tongues of fire it has renewed and restored.

ONE: In our rising and our sleeping, In our working and our playing, In our joys and in our sorrows,

MANY: Your Spirit's brightness has dispelled the darkness,

ONE: In our loving and caring, In our touching and our listening,
In our thoughts and in our actions,

MANY: God's Spirit has brought life out of death.

(Our prayers for others will be lifted here)

ONE: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**MANY: It filled those that were empty, It empowered those that
were weary.**

ONE: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

MANY: It brought together those that were divided, It reassured those who were afraid.

ONE: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

MANY: By its power we can walk together as one, By its power we can find strength to share.

ONE: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

MANY: By its power we can find freedom in loving each other, By its power we can find life in you.

ONE: Amen.

HYMN

Dry Bones

TRADITIONAL

**Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,
Oh hear the word of the Lord.**

**Your toe bone connected to your foot bone,
Your foot bone connected to your ankle bone,
Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone,
Your leg bone connected to your knee bone,
Your knee bone connected to your thigh bone,
Your thigh bone connected to your hip bone,**

**Your hip bone connected to your back bone,
Your back bone connected to your shoulder bone,
Your shoulder bone connected to your neck bone,
Your neck bone connected to your head bone,
Oh hear the word of the Lord!**

**Dem bones, dem bones are gonna walk around
Dem bones, dem bones, are gonna walk around
Dem bones, dem bones, are gonna walk around
Oh hear the word of the Lord.**

Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones

Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones

Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones

Oh hear the word of the Lord.

Your head bone connected to your neck bone,

Your neck bone connected to your shoulder bone,

Your shoulder bone connected to your back bone,

Your back bone connected to your hip bone,

Your hip bone connected to your thigh bone,

Your thigh bone connected to your knee bone,

**Your knee bone connected to your leg bone,
Your leg bone connected to your ankle bone,
Your ankle bone connected to your foot bone,
Your foot bone connected to your toe bone,
Oh hear the word of the Lord!
Oh hear the word of the Lord!**

BLESSING

This Grace That Scorches Us

POSTLUDE

CLG Questions: Ezekiel 37:1-14 & Acts 2:1-21

1. In Ezekiel's story of the "dry bones" we are assured God can restore life even unto those bones. Do you carry this assurance with you regarding your own death? Why or why not?
2. American astrophysicist Neil de Grasse Tyson discusses his wishes for burial in a brief interview we will watch. What are your wishes for your body when your life comes to an end?
3. What does the miracle of Pentecost mean to you? What thoughts, feelings, ideas or images come to mind as you consider this story in Acts? How does this story connect with Ezekiel's discourse on the Spirit?
4. How do you envision meeting others outside of your own community who may not speak your language? What would help you do that?

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Karla Miller and posted on RevGalBlogPals.
<https://revgalblogpals.org/2018/05/19/saturday-prayer-speaking-in-tongues>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship.
<http://www.faithandworship.com/>

The **Assurance of Pardon** is written by Katherine Hawker and posted on Liturgies Outside.
<http://liturgyoutside.net/Biblical.Litanies.pdf>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from a prayer written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Practicing Families.
<http://practicingfamilies.com>

The **Reader's Theater** version of Ezekiel 37:1-14 is taken from The Voice Bible translation of Scripture, copyright © 2012 Thomas Nelson, Inc. <http://www.hearthevoice.com>

The **Responsive Prayer for Pentecost** is part of a longer litany used at the Mustard Seed House. Posted on Godspace. <http://godspace-msa.com/2009/05/19/a-prayer-for-pentecost>

The **Blessing** is by Jan Richardson from her book, *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*, Wanton Gospeller Press, November 14, 2015.

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