

May 30 Recording Thursday - Liturgists 4:30; 6p Choir

THEME PARTS: TAKE HEART! Liturgist: Debra Bostron CM: p2 Message given by p2

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17**

Welcome & Preparation

Pastor

From the mysterious nature of the Trinity, the Spirit enters in. Being born in the Spirit brings new life—a life of adoption into God’s family, a life of unity with the Holy Spirit, a life of eternal salvation through Christ Jesus.

And so the gift of Pentecost continues, for the Spirit comes, not only at the birth of the church, but at each and every instance of spiritual rebirth in our lives. Just as God’s Spirit blows where it will, so it is with our spirits.

Whether we consider ourselves unclean, born again, or simply confused, God’s Spirit is with us and within us. However you understand this Holy One, and with whatever names you call on, give thanks to God!

Prelude

“Introduction and Hymn on *Holy, Holy, Holy*” Piet Post

Offered by Clarice Snyder

Call to Worship

Liturgist

Jesus calls, inviting us in.

Holy, holy, holy God, we gather as your children.

The Spirit calls, inviting us to listen.

Holy, holy, holy Christ, we sit at your feet.

The Father calls, adopting us as family.

Holy, holy, holy Spirit, we come to worship.

Threshold

“Spirit of God”

TFWS 2117

Spirit of God, bright wind, breath that bids life begin, blow as you always do; create us anew.

Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing, held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia, Come Spirit Come! Alleluia, Come spirit come.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes © 1987 Steve Garnaas-Holmes; The Faith We Sing @2001 Abingdon Press.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist

Holy Spirit, as we gather in your presence, blow through this space and through our lives, that we may sense your presence in and among us. As we sing your praise, reveal your glory to us, that we may discover the gift of humility in this time of worship. As we listen for your word, speak to our hearts, that we may hear your call. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

UMH 64

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

LITURGIST

Let us call on the name of the One who invites us to speak the truth about ourselves and our relationships and promises to show us mercy.

**Forgive us, Spirit of truth, when we neglect your wisdom or close our minds to your call.
Forgive us, Spirit of love, when we neglect the needs of your world or harden our hearts to the needs of mercy and compassion.
Forgive us, Spirit of God, when we neglect your guidance or close our spirits to your presence.
Blow where you will, Spirit of freedom, but please blow through our lives.
Open our minds. Open our hearts. Open our spirits, that our spirits may blow through your world with love, compassion, justice, and truth. In your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen... (Silence).**

Words of Assurance

LITURGIST

We are so loved that God gave us Jesus Christ to reveal and bring us eternal life.
We are so loved that Christ sent the Holy Spirit to reveal God's constant presence.
We are loved. We are forgiven. We are saved in this forgiving love. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

LITURGIST

Born of the Spirit, share signs of the Spirit, as we pass Christ's peace and share God's love..

Refrain

"Spirit of God"

TFWS 2117

Spirit of God, bright wind, breath that bids life begin, blow as you always do; create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing, held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia, Come Spirit Come! Alleluia, Come spirit come.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes © 1987 Steve Garnaas-Holmes; The Faith We Sing @2001 Abingdon Press.

Children's Moment

p2

Intro to Scripture

Pastor

Romans 8:12–17

In Romans 7, Paul describes the human condition as our inability to do the good called for by the law because we are of the flesh and enslaved to sin. Today's Epistle reading is part of Paul's description of God's answer to this dilemma: God's gift of life in the Spirit through Jesus Christ.

John 3:1–17

Today's Gospel lesson is the story of Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night. Jesus tells of God's love in terms of our being born from above. As with Paul's description of salvation in our reading from Romans, the Gospel of John also employs language that helped the church shape its doctrine of the Trinity

Scripture

Romans 8:12-17 (CEB)

Liturgist

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. ¹³ If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. ¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. ¹⁷ But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

John 3:1-17 (CEB)

3 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

3 Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew,^[a] it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

4 Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?”

5 Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. **6** Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ **8** God’s Spirit^[b] blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

10 “Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? **11** I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One.^[c] **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One^[d] be lifted up **15** so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. **16** God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. **17** God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”

Hymn

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

TFWS 2050

Sermon

“Dare to Move From Dreams to Reality with Power and Presence!”

p2

Prayer for God’s People, Church, World

LITURGIST

Silent prayer may follow each petition.

Almighty God, before whom stand the living and the dead,
we your children, whose mortal life is but a hand’s breadth, give thanks to you:
For all those through whom you have blessed our pilgrimage,
whose lives that have empowered us, whose influence is a healing grace,
We lift up thankful hearts.

For the dear friends and family members
whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us for ever . . . **R**

For the teachers and companions of our childhood and youth,
and for the members of our household of faith who worship you now in heaven . . . **R**

For those who sacrificed themselves,
our brothers and sisters who have given their lives for the sake of others . . . **R**

That we may hold them all in continual remembrance, and ever think of them as with you
in that city whose gates are not shut by day and where there is no night... **R**

That we may now be dedicated to working for a world where labor is rewarded, fear dispelled, and the nations made one, O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage.
Day by day we magnify you, and worship your name, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LITURGIST

Offering Invitation

Pastor

Invitation to the Offering

Whom should God send? Us, of course. Whether we are wannabe angels, small beings, confused followers, or imperfect children, we are all needed and our gifts are of infinite value to God and to make us glad to spread good news by caring for those in need. Let us enter into the spiritual discipline of giving as a work of the Holy Spirit within us.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 94 CHOIR

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor

Offering Prayer (Ps. 47)

Holy, holy, holy God, bless these gifts with your holiness and your love.
Through our giving of time, talent, and treasure, may your Spirit blow ever more lovingly, ever more expansively, and ever more pervasively, through every corner of creation.. **Amen.**

Hymn

"Baptized in Water"

TFWS 2248

Benediction

p2

When God calls, **we will answer.**
As Christ loves, **we will love.**
Where the Spirit leads, **we will follow**

Jesus did not leave us without hope but sent the Holy Spirit to nurture faith and love in this world.
Live this vision in all that you do.

+And may the Loving God, Risen Christ, and Dancing Spirit fill you with all you need for the days ahead to share faith, gather hope and be love in the world. And all God's people said, "**Amen!**"

Postlude

"Finale and Hymn on *Holy, Holy, Holy*" Piet Post

offered by Clarice Snyder

