*John 14:8-17, 25-27 ~ June 8, 2025*

***Call to Worship:***

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**Praise and glory to you, Spirit of God, our comfort and strength.**

Let us sing praises to God as long as we live;
**Praise and glory to you, Spirit of God, our comfort and strength.**

May our worship be pleasing to God, ever Three and ever One.
**Let us praise the LORD!**

*Hymn: #*78 This is the day

***Prayer of Approach and Confession:***

Holy God,

from our scattered lives, we gather to praise you,

for you are great and wonderful; wise and compassionate.

With joyful hearts, we celebrate the gifts and guidance of your Spirit.

At the dawn of creation, you sent your Spirit to bring life.

Over the centuries, your Spirit equipped your people

to proclaim your love and justice.

Through the flames of Pentecost,

your Spirit gave birth to the church with energy and wonder.

Today, your Spirit is at work in the world,

bringing renewal and hope here and everywhere.

Transform us by your Spirit

to become more faithful followers of Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God,

you poured out your Spirit to guide your disciples,

and empower your church with gifts for ministry.

We confess we often resist the Spirit’s guidance.

The challenge to change makes us uncomfortable.

We overlook the gifts others can offer

and fail to live out Christ’s love for the world.

Forgive us, O God.

Send your Holy Spirit to us again

to open our minds and hearts to the challenges in ministry

you set before us in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon*:**

Hear and believe this promise of the good news:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old life has passed away and new life has begun.

Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

You are set free to live life anew in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn:* #498 Sing them over again to me

***Anthem***

***Scripture Readings:*** *Psalm 104:24-35*

How many are your works, Lord!
    In wisdom you made them all;
    the earth is full of your creatures.
**25**There is the sea, vast and spacious,
    teeming with creatures beyond number—
    living things both large and small.
**26**There the ships go to and fro,
    and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

**27**All creatures look to you
    to give them their food at the proper time.
**28**When you give it to them,
    they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
    they are satisfied with good things.
**29**When you hide your face,
    they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
    they die and return to the dust.
**30**When you send your Spirit,
    they are created,
    and you renew the face of the ground.

**31**May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
    may the Lord rejoice in his works—
**32**he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
    who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

**33**I will sing to the Lord all my life;
    I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
**34**May my meditation be pleasing to him,
    as I rejoice in the Lord.
**35**But may sinners vanish from the earth
    and the wicked be no more.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

Praise the Lord.

*John 14:8-17, (25-27)*

**8**Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

**9**Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10**Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11**Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12**Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13**And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14**You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

**15**“If you love me, keep my commands. **16**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17**the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26686c)] in you.

**25**“All this I have spoken while still with you. **26**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **27**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

***Meditation****: “The Promise”*

Philip is not a major player among the disciples of Jesus. He raises his hand a few times, makes a couple of statements, asks a question or two. It is then, and only then, that we take notice of him, when we see his name in print. But at other times he just doesn't come to mind. We certainly don't think of him as a top-tier disciple of Jesus, do we?

He wasn't a starter on the A-team, not like James and John or Simon Peter. He wasn't invited to be in on the Transfiguration, and when Jesus went to the garden to pray the night before he gave up his life on a cross, Philip wasn't asked to join him.

If you were asked to name the disciples of Jesus, you might be hard-pressed to remember Philip. But one thing Philip did. He bought wholeheartedly into Jesus and his mission. He believed in Jesus and gave himself wholly and completely to Christ. In the first chapter of John's gospel, immediately after Jesus calls on him to be his disciple, Philip introduces his rather cynical friend Nathanael to Jesus, and Nathanael becomes a disciple too.

And there was the time the men from Greece came to see Jesus. They approached Philip to see if he could arrange an introduction. Andrew, Simon's brother, has a reputation for introducing people to Jesus, but he really doesn't have anything over Philip in that department. Yet, Philip is not that familiar to us when it comes to having been a follower of Jesus. But give Philip his due. He gave himself, and his life, to Christ.

Yet even good folk like Philip finally lose their patience. He, along with all the others, had watched as Jesus turn water into wine, healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, and brought the dead back to life. Surely these wonderful miracles were signs of even greater things to come. And just as the disciples are prepared to put this traveling show into high gear, to reveal to the people what they're really capable of doing, Jesus tells them he is about to leave them.

You are not surprised, are you, that this leaves his disciples confused and sad? "Where are you going?" they want to know. "Can we go with you?" they ask. "Will we ever be together again?" they inquire. "What's going on?" Jesus patiently but indirectly answers each of their probing questions. It is a tactic he has used before on a number of occasions.

Earlier, when representatives of the religious establishment had tried to pin him down and discover the source of his obvious power, Jesus used symbols to describe himself. "I am," he said repeatedly, which, of course is the name God gave for himself when God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. "I am... I am the bread of life, I am the true vine, I am the door, I am the Good Shepherd, I am the water of life. I am."

 Now, he's talking about leaving them and going to prepare a place for them, that where he was going they would be also. In that place are many rooms and he would come again and take them there himself. Let me ask you... Do you think that answers all their questions?

Of course not. You can almost hear the disciples thinking, "That just doesn't make sense. And it doesn't square with our wishes and dreams and hopes. We're ready for the kingdom to come, and how can that happen if you're not with us?" It wasn't enough for them what Jesus had said to them. It's all just a bunch of promises. And they don't want promises, they want proof.

Finally, resolved to the fact that they cannot change his mind or get a straight answer out of him, Philip says, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

"Give us a face, Lord, a face we can see and touch. If you're not going to be with us (and it certainly looks like you've made your mind up about that), then leave us something we can see to count on. Don't give us promises. We don't want promises. We want evidence, something we can reach out and touch with our very own hands, something we can see, something right before our very eyes."

Philip was the Thomas Jefferson of the group. Jefferson received a traditional Christian funeral, but while he was alive he struggled with traditional Christian belief. In fact, Jefferson once went into his presidential office and took a razor to his Bible. He surgically removed from the gospels those passages, like the miracles stories, that he found implausible. Made his Bible look like Swiss cheese. He was also quite well known for his lack of belief in the Holy Trinity. "Ideas must be distinct before reason can act upon them," he once said, "and no man ever had a distinct idea of the trinity."

"Ideas must be distinct before reason can act upon them..." I doubt he ever cut up his Torah, but that's Philip. He is a man of faith, but he is also a man of reason. "Ideas must be distinct before reason can act upon them..." And both Thomas Jefferson and Philip, the disciple of Jesus, were reasonable men.

It is indeed possible, I would think, that Jesus' disciples are getting a bit antsy. Jesus keeps talking about leaving them, and they can't imagine what things will be like in his absence. But maybe, if Jesus will draw for them a clear picture of God, introduce them to the heavenly Father in a way that's never been done before, so they would be able clearly and finally to envision what he has called them to do... then they could learn to cope in his absence.

So he gives them another promise. "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter/Helper/Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth... You know him because he abides in you, and he will be among you."

And that is why you and I are here today because Jesus delivers on his promises. The coming of the Holy Spirit, the one who visited the followers of Jesus on that day called Pentecost, when the mighty wind swooped down where they were waiting together, where their tongues were set on fire, is also for us.

"Show you the Father?" Jesus says. "I'll do one better than that. I'll send you the Spirit, and when the Spirit comes you will be able to do even greater things than I have done. And if you ask for anything in my name, I will see that it happens for you" (see vv. 12-14).

Jesus actually makes it sound like it will be to their advantage that he is gone, and that he will send the Spirit in his place. And maybe it was. You see, Jesus knows something they don't know. He knows that God cannot be seen or explained. God can only be experienced.

According to Luke, this is how it happened. They were all gathered together in one place. Suddenly, from heaven, Luke says (I wonder if that's not just his way of saying he had no idea where it came from but as far as he was concerned it had to be a God thing), there came a sound like a mighty wind (see Acts 2:1f.).

Have you ever been near a tornado? The sky turns yellow and it sounds like a freight train is coming at you from the sky. I don't know if the sky turned yellow at Pentecost – Luke doesn't mention it – but there was a sound in the room like the rush of a violent wind. And Spirit means wind. You see, we've been shown the Father. "Whoever has seen me," Jesus said to Philip, "has seen the Father." And the Son. And the Holy Spirit.

The promise has been fulfilled. And that should be enough for all of us. Amen.

*Hymn: #*338 Let all things now living

***Invitation of Offering:***

Pentecost celebrates the gifts of the Spirit poured out on the Church, preparing Christ’s followers to serve him. Our offering today will build up the ministry and mission of Christ’s church here and everywhere, in his name.

***Doxology:*** *#830 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*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.*

***Prayer of Dedication:***

Spirit of grace and power, bless the gifts we offer today so that they may accomplish surprising things in Jesus’ name. Equip each of us, and all of us together, to proclaim the Good News with grace and power in ways we have not yet dreamed possible. Amen.

***Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer:***

God of all places, people and times;

hear us as we speak to you of our gratitude and our concerns in the world; and let us hear your voice calling us to help build your commonwealth of grace and reconciliation in the world you love.

We thank you for the Spirit’s presence among us, for the gifts you bless us with and for the ways people use the gifts you give to bring life and joy to the world.

Blow through us on this day of Pentecost and renew our faith.

Re-awaken in us love for God,

strengthen our fellowship with one another

and nurture our care for one another and your creation.

Let your Pentecostal flames warm our hearts, with trust in Jesus Christ

and hope for the future being created among us.

Nurture us to do great things in your name.

Blow through us and renew our energy

to serve you in Christ’s church.

Open our eyes to recognize the need for ministry and mission in changing times.

Open our hearts to welcome newcomers and meet those we don’t yet know.

Open our hands to share in the tasks that need doing,

and open our lips in prayer and praise.

Blow through us and give us new understanding

for those whose lives seem so different from ours,

and for those facing situations we’ve never encountered.

For those with whom we’ve disagreed

and for those whose values challenge our expectations.

For problems and challenges we face at home or at work

and for the complex issues we face in your world.

Blow through us and bring us healing and peace

for all who face pain or illness, discouragement or disappointment.

Bring healing for all who know sorrow, sadness or grief.

Bring healing for those who face stress and pressure.

Bring healing to places in the world facing conflict

and for the creation struggling for life itself.

Blow through us and bring us the wisdom and compassion we see in Christ Jesus.

Blow through us and equip us to serve the world you love in his name.

Blow through our whole church and refresh us as your faithful people

as together we say the words Jesus taught us:

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

*Hymn: #*328 This is my Father’s world

***Benediction:***

Go in peace; God calls us to step out in faith, to follow where He leads

even if what He calls us to do seems impossible. So let’s go from here with courage, trusting in God’s presence and power, and eager to do God’s will.

Now may the LORD keep us and bless us,

May the LORD make his face to shine upon us

and be gracious unto us,

Now and for ever more, AMEN.

***Choral Closing: “Go Now in Peace”***

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.