

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 23, 2021 Pentecost

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

Call upon God's holy name.

For in calling, we are saved.

Listen for the wind of the Spirit.

For in listening, we will hear the Spirit who brings new life.

Hope in the promises of Christ.

We call, we listen, we hope as Christ comes to us even now in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayer Come, Holy Spirit, come. Blow through our lives with the breath of life. Blow through our church with the power of prophecy. Blow through our world with the promise of peace and justice. Gather all peoples together that we may know of your powerful and life-giving love. Bless us with your Spirit as we worship you today. Amen.

Scripture Reading “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...” Read Acts 2.1-8, 12-21

A Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Source of the Spirit, forgive us for doubting your goodness when you work in ways we do not understand.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Loving Christ, Wellspring of the Spirit, forgive us for failing to follow your example of compassion and service.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Holy Spirit, Living Water, forgive us for misusing your gifts when we focus more on ourselves than on others.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Time of Silent Confession Offer the confessions of your heart to God in these quiet moments.

Words of Assurance God declares, “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; all who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Know with confidence that, by God’s grace, you are forgiven and renewed.

Scripture Reading “because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Read Romans 8.22-27

Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer Please spend a few moments remembering those who are on our prayer list and the joys and concerns you bring to God today.

A Pentecost Litany (insert)

The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Reading “...he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.” Read John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Meditation This week we celebrate what is known as the “birthday of the church.” What happened at that very first Pentecost was the result of the faithful being together in one place, together and rejoicing when the power of God’s Spirit came upon them. The Book of Acts tells us that Jewish people from places far and wide gathered in Jerusalem on that day fifty days after the Passover. They were there to celebrate the day that the law was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai when suddenly the wind started to blow. It gathered momentum until it came upon them, Scripture tells us, “like the rush of a wind.” It was a stormy wind whose sound filled the very place where the believers gathered. Then, all of a sudden, tongues of fire were evident - falling, reaching, touching every person there until each one

became filled with the Holy Spirit. It was the same spirit that Jesus had promised he would send to be our comforter, guide, and advocate.

We cherish those moments in our lives when we receive some kind of assurance that we have done the right thing or are headed in the right direction. We find great comfort and encouragement in those times and signs. And so it was for those gathered on that very first day of what we now know as Pentecost.

Jesus' followers had been living in fear, meeting behind closed doors before this miraculous event. Their leader, their beloved Jesus had been put to death and they were afraid for their own lives - understandably so. So what wonderful reassurance it must have been for them to receive this Holy Spirit and to know that Jesus' promise of a helper who would lead them into all the truth had come true.

People had been longing for and looking for this time since the days of the prophets. They were confident because of the teachings they heard from Jesus that this time would usher in a new age, a new way of life with new possibilities. The coming of God's Spirit signaled this time so that no longer were the believers afraid; they began to witness to their faith in Christ - much like Peter who stood up to preach on that Pentecost day. He gave testimony to the presence of God's spirit and to remind his listeners that whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved. It was a powerful message for a powerful day.....a day when the believers were given the very breath of God and the church came to life. That same Spirit remains with us to this very day, still empowering, still comforting, and still filling each of us with the very breath of God for the living of life and the living out of our faith. Thanks be to God!

Words of Benediction In rushing wind and tongues of flame, go forth in the power of the living God. In courage found and strength renewed, go forth in the power of the eternal Christ. In visions born, in dreams restored, go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Lisbon United Methodist Church
welcomes, nurtures, and serves
all people
with the love of Christ.