

Pentecost 2020

Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Prelude

Breathe on me, breath of God

Church of the Atonement, Westfield

The Officiant greets the people with these words.

V. Alleluia. Christ is risen.

R. *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation--the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Eternal God, who led your ancient people into freedom by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we who walk in the light of your presence may rejoice in the liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop lights a candle. Those who are gathered at home are invited to do the same.

Lucernaria *prayed responsively*

The Spirit of the Lord now fills the whole world,*
alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord now fills the whole world,*
alleluia, alleluia.



The Spirit who searches even the depths of God:
alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of the Lord now fills the whole world,*
alleluia, alleluia.

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Taizé Chant

Christ Trinity Church, Sheffield

V. The apostles spoke in other tongues, alleluia.

R. *The wonderful works of God, alleluia.*

Listening for the Word of God

Genesis 11:1-9

Read by the Lawrence House Interns, South Hadley

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Musical Response

Ev'ry Time I Feel de Spirit

John Cheek, Grace in the Southern Berkshires

Prayer

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Ezekiel 37:1-10

Read by Joel Martinez, Christ Church Cathedral

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Son of Man, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Musical Response

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place

All Saints' Church, South Hadley

Prayer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Joel 2:28-29

Read by Todd Goodwin, Holy Spirit, Sutton

Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

The First Song of Isaiah

The Rev. Jane Beebe, Christ Memorial, North Brookfield


Prayer

God of light, from whom every good gift comes, send your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, and by the flame of your wisdom open the horizons of our minds. Loosen our tongues to sing your praise in words beyond the power of speech, for without your Spirit man could never raise his voice in words of peace or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Acts 2:1-21

Read by Robin Shropshire, All Saints, Worcester

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.



And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

These two verses will be repeated in several languages

Jose Reyes, Latino Missioner — Spanish

Hanna Karas, Christ Trinity, Sheffield — Korean

The Rev. John Edgar Freeman, Trinity, Shrewsbury — Vai

Tracy Stowbridge, St. Thomas, Auburn — American Sign Language

Nancy Kundl, All Saints', South Hadley — French

The Rev. Chisato Kitagawa, All Saints', South Hadley — Japanese

Sinda Mohammed, Cathedral, Springfield — Swahili

June Watson, Cathedral, Springfield — Jamaican Patois

Carlos Dias, St. Mark's, East Longmeadow — Portuguese


The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care — Russian

Marti Merce, Christ Trinity, Sheffield — Castilian Spanish

Anna-Lena Peiffer, Christ Trinity, Sheffield — German

Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: `In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and



your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

Siempre es Pentecostes

The 12:15 Choir, Christ Church Cathedral

John 20:19-23

Read by Deacon Jane Griesbach, St. Luke's Church, Worcester

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


Homily

The Right Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop of Western Massachusetts

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.



Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried*

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

*He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit

*the holy catholic Church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?



I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you cherish the wonderful works of God and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Musical Response

Precious Lord

Christon Carney, All Saints' Church, Worcester

Prayers of the People

Led by Lee Cheek, Grace in the Southern Berkshires

Response:

For Love Unbound by time and place,
Lord, hear our prayer.

The Offering

Our offering today is in support of Human To Human, the new charitable entity of the diocese focused on the humanitarian work of Jesus in the world. Donations can be made through our website at <https://www.diocesewma.org/donate/>

Human To Human is founded on a simple premise: everyone deserves to be loved and accepted and welcomed as we are. We meet people where we are in our personal journey of health, recovery, and discovery. We do laundry, we provide warm meals, we offer safe places where anyone can see and be seen. Human To Human supports community-based efforts like Walking Together in Worcester and Building Bridges, our veterans initiative. Find out more: www.humantohuman.org.



Musical Response

Come Down, O Love Divine

Virtual Diocesan Choir

*With special thanks to Bruce Foss and Graeme McCullough, from All Saints, Worcester
and all the choristers from around our diocese.*

Pentecost Blessing from the Bishop

May Almighty God, who enlightened the minds of the disciples by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit, make you rich with his blessing, that you may abound more and more in that Spirit for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit as a flame of fire that rested upon the heads of the disciples, burn out all evil from your hearts, and make them shine with the pure light of his presence. *Amen.*

May God, who by the Holy Spirit caused those of many tongues to proclaim Jesus as Lord, strengthen your faith and send you out to bear witness to him in word and deed. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Deacon Terry Hurlbut, St. David's Church, Agawam

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.