



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Mysterious Ways

God Is in the Radio

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Dan Chadburn

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Call to Worship

One: Beloved, pay attention! The Holy Spirit moves in mysterious ways—rushing like wind, flickering like flame, stirring like a song you can't forget.

All: We are children of God, heirs of grace, swept up in the Spirit's melodies.

One: Have you noticed? She moves through ancient words and unexpected rhythms, through wildfire visions and whispered dreams.

All: We are children of God, inspired and renewed—called to speak, sing, and serve.

One: Be encouraged. Even when we groan with the labor pains of a world not yet whole, the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

All: We are children of God, held in love, carried by grace.

One: So pay attention! In the roar and in the silence, in the lyric and the breath, the Spirit is here.

All: We are children of God, knit together by fire and wind and wonder. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Congregational Introit

Surely the Presence

UMH 328

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

O Spirit of the Living God

UMH 539

1. O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.
2. Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal.
3. Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;
till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

4. So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save;
so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave;
and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole;
till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

Blessing for Young Hearts

Prayers of the People

A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.

Online Worshipers may type prayer requests in the Live Chat, taking care for privacy.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Almighty Father, Hear Our Prayer

Arr. Donald Moore

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WE HEAR THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Acts 2:1-21 (NRSVue)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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 people 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. 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, “Fellow Jews 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.’

Romans 8:22-27 (NRSVue)

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Scriptural Response

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

Spirit, Come Down

Mark Hayes
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Message

Mysterious Ways

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Randy Seward, Soloist

† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

All: O God, you who move in mysterious ways—we confess that we draw the curtains against the unexpected. You speak in wind and flame, but we close the windows against the noise. You whisper through strangers, visions, and songs, but we turn down the volume when your Spirit disrupts our rhythm. Forgive us—for locking our doors when you long to enter, for insulating our lives from people and stories not our own. We claim to follow the river of your grace, but we stand back, get back, afraid to be swept away. Break through our resistance. Open us to the movement of your Spirit—rushing, unpredictable, and full of life. Amen.

One: Beloved, the Spirit has never been confined by our fear or hesitation. She moves in mystery and mercy—flowing through locked hearts, speaking in every tongue. Hear the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

Spirit of God

TFWS 2117

1. 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.

Refrain

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

2. Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,
healing upon your wings for all living things.
For when we live your peace, captives will find release,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Refrain

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

3. Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far-off lands
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.
No matter where we go, you hold us together so,
held in your hand, borne on your wings.

Refrain

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

4. Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.
We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Refrain

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

5. Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Refrain

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

† **Benediction**

Postlude

We're Marching to Zion

Arr. Mark Hayes
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: From Marjorie Slankard in memory of Alan Bergelson and what would have been their 34th wedding anniversary
Liturgist: Don Rushing
Guest Choir
Director: Rachel Alessio
Pianist: Laura Williams
Ushers: Russ Corpron, Don Lincoln, Don Rushing, Russell Toppi
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director;
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