

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, May 23, 2021 10:30 am
The Day of Pentecost**

A Thought Before Worship

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill our lives with the gift of your presence.

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Bock

Introit

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Manley

(Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness wind, wind on the sea. You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams. Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions, your people arise.)

***Call to Worship**

Do you hear it?

The rushing wind of God's Spirit is filling this place!

Do you see it?

The fire of God's Spirit reflects from every pair of eyes!

Do you feel it?

The Spirit of God is moving in this place, calling us to worship!

The Spirit is among us. The Church is alive!

So let us worship God!

***Prayer for the Day**

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O God so that, in hearing and receiving the gifts you promise we may know the way to life everlasting, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 290**

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

A Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both great and small.

There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

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

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord! Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

A Call to Confession

Let us call now on the name of God, who sent the Spirit among us to encourage us to speak the truth about our lives and our relationships and who promises to show us mercy. Let us pray.

A Prayer of Confession

O God just as your Spirit filled the Church on the first Pentecost day, so we sense your presence filling this house of worship today. Fill us with passion for your work. You are always doing a new thing, actively moving in the world. Forgive us when we act as if your stories have all been written. You hear the prayers of every language, and you call us to listen until we can hear each other. Forgive us when we act as if your Spirit only speaks our language. Wash us in your grace, O God, and illumine us with your fire. Send us out to follow your spirit and teach to hear the cries of all your people, cries for justice, cries for peace. Then help us respond with the gifts of your Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God's truth has come upon all creation. It has come upon us! By the power of that Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, I declare the great Good News that in Jesus Christ we find complete and lasting forgiveness of our sin.

Thanks be to God!

Now may the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Confirmation, Profession of Faith, and Uniting With the Church Natalie Simo and Lydia Williams

Presentation

Profession of Faith

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and all its power in the world?

Do you trust in Jesus Christ, and in him alone, as your Lord and Savior?

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Will you devote yourself to the Church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers?

Will you be faithful members of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your presence, your prayers, and your gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Welcome to the Church

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this Church. We promise you our friendship and our prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and, together, be witnesses to the love of Christ at work in the world.

A Word of Blessing

Anthem

"Be Present, Spirit of the Lord!"

Beall

(Be present, Spirit of the Lord. Let sounds of earth be dumb. The Father's love be spread abroad. The dew of blessing on us poured. Oh, Silent Spirit, Come. Oh, silent Spirit, come. In power unseen upon us rest. Your gracious gifts impart. A mind renewed, a Spirit blessed, a life where Christ is manifest. An understanding heart, an understanding heart. O Spirit, come, and with us stay; make every heart your home. So work in us that we who pray may walk with Christ in wisdom's way. Oh, Holy Spirit, come. Oh, Holy Spirit, come.)

We Hear God's Word

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

Readings from God's Word

Epistle: Romans 8:22-27
New Testament: Acts 1:1-21

Sermon **Upon Each of Them!** **the Rev. Bob Phelps**

***A Prayer of Commitment on Pentecost**

God of grace and power, we thank you and praise you for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and the Spirit's coming anew every day. Enlighten our thinking, strengthen our will, guide us, and give us courage so that we may serve you by living faithfully where we are and by listening to your call to serve you where we are to join with others in serving you in all places. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***The *Gloria Patri*:**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end! Amen. Amen.

Offertory Sentence: God sent the Holy Spirit to increase our compassion and to make us glad to spread the Good News by caring for all in need. We come to this time of giving because the Spirit is working within us. Let us give from grateful and obedient lives.

Offertory **"Be Not Afraid"** **Forrest**

***Doxology:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People --- Our 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

We Go In God's Name

***Hymn 297 "Spirit of the Living God"**

***Benediction**

The Holy Spirit has come to fill this world with freedom, with truth, and with understanding. We are not alone. Go from here confident that God will keep us and help our prayers and acts of service bear fruit.

***Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord!

***Postlude "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" Hayes**

Today's flowers are presented to the glory of God and in celebration of the confirmation of Natalie Simo and Lydia Williams today and also in thanksgiving for the families and this congregation who have brought them to this day in their spiritual journey by Tommy and Debbi Brock.

