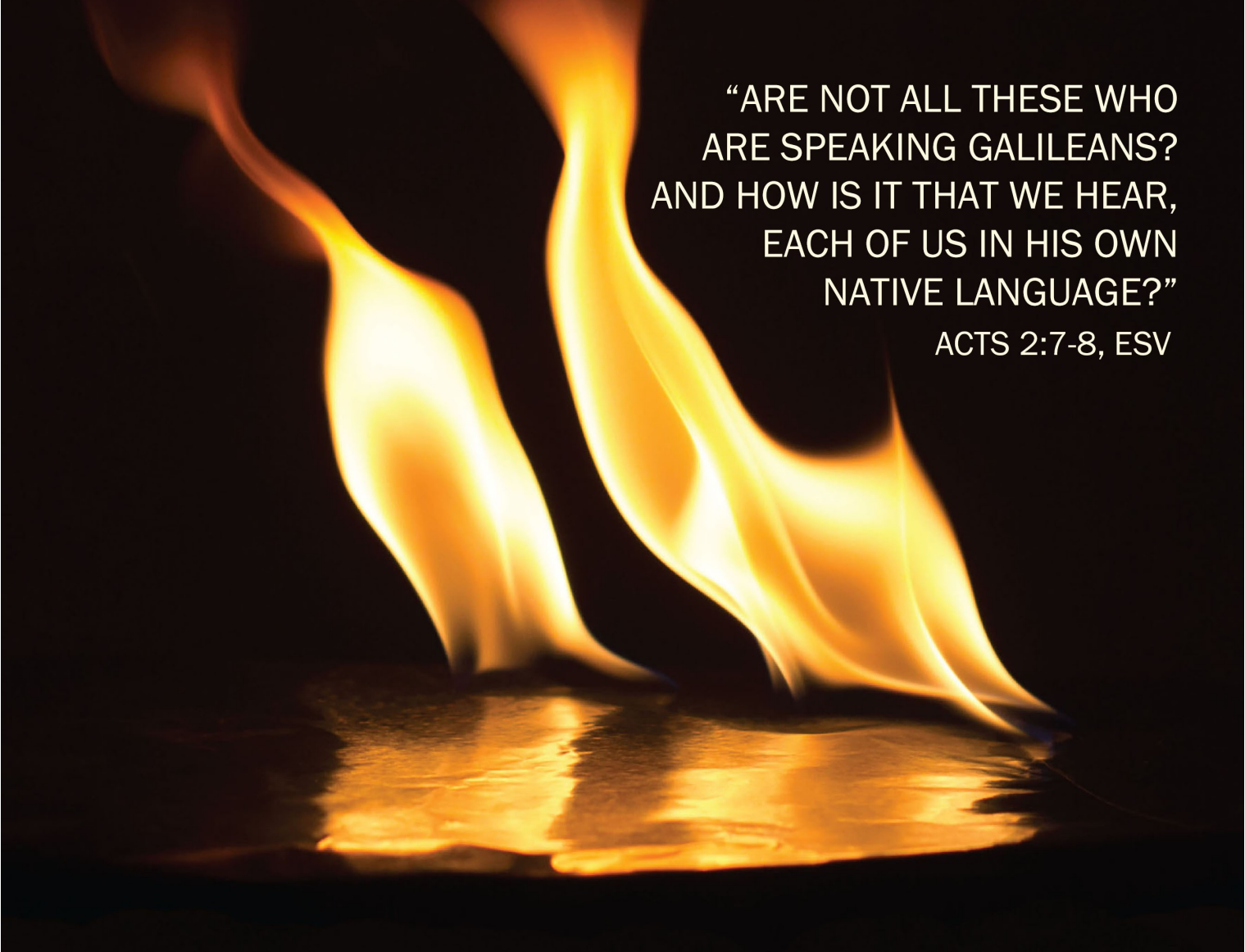


LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Pentecost Confirmation Sunday

May 19, 2024 + 9 AM



“ARE NOT ALL THESE WHO
ARE SPEAKING GALILEANS?
AND HOW IS IT THAT WE HEAR,
EACH OF US IN HIS OWN
NATIVE LANGUAGE?”
ACTS 2:7-8, ESV

We Gather as God's Children

Welcome

Prelude *A Mighty Fortress is our God* (UMH 110) Martin Luther

+ Call to Worship

Beloved of God, pay attention. Did you notice? There are dry bones all around us. In our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our schools, our community and nation and world. They pop up wherever people are parched for love and dignity, provision and flourishing. We notice them, and we wonder:

Will these bones live?

Pay attention. Can you hear it? So many of us carry dry bones that clank around in our hearts. Dreams that are dying. Gifts that are languishing. Hopes left undernourished and neglected. Loneliness that eats away at our sense of connection with one another until we wonder:

Can these bones live?

Pay attention. Can you feel it? The Holy Spirit breathes among us. Breathe in love. Breathe in provision. Breathe in connection and flourishing. Because the Spirit never quits breathing among us, assuring us:

These bones will live.

Pay attention. Can you sense it? God is always putting us back together. In dreams of abundance and visions of cooperation, in the cacophony of voices who share and receive the good news in their own languages, the Spirit revives us and restores us, reminding us:

***These bones live, because Love dwells among us, now and always.
Thanks be to God!***

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+ Hymn

Breathe on Me, Breathe of God

UMH 420

Prayers of the People (Seeking & Offering Peace)

Music of Meditation & Reflection

Blessed Be The Name (UMH 63)

El Shaddai (UMH 123)

Ralph E. Hudson

John Thompson

Michael Card

The Lord's Prayer

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place,
let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson — Psalm 104.24-34, 35*b* (NRSVUE)

- 24 O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 25 There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
- 26 There go the ships
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
- 27 These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
- 28 when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- 29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
- 30 When you send forth 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 who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

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

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson — Acts 2.1-13 (NRSVUE)

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** 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. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” **13** But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Introduction to the Service of Confirmation

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation,

and through the reaffirmation of our faith,

we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,

acknowledge what God is doing for us,

and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

Presentation of Candidates

We present Marcus James Thomas for baptism.

We present Hope Louise Antczak and Josephine Ella Swartz for confirmation.

We present all three of these young people who are seeking professing membership from The United Methodist Church of Berea.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of this world,

and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?
We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include these persons now before you in your care?

***With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.***

We will surround these persons

***with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in their service to others.***

We will pray for them,

***that they may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.***

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

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?

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

Do you believe in 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.***

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos,

you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,

you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan

to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,

nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples

to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection

and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ's works to the nations,

his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,

to wash away their sin

and clothe them in righteousness

throughout their lives,

that, dying and being raised with Christ,

they may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father,

through your Son Jesus Christ,

who with you and the Holy Spirit

lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

Baptism with Laying On of Hands

Marcus James, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

Through baptism

***you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.
We are all one in Christ Jesus.
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
as members of the family of Christ.***

Confirmation of Faith

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

Hope Louise, the Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Josephine Ella, the Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reception into the United Methodist Church

As members of Christ's universal Church,
will you be loyal to Christ
through the United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

Reception into Our Local Congregation

As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

*We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.*

*As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.*

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory Bell Choir Anthem

Praise Ring

James Lloyd

+ Doxology

UMH 95

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Send forth your Spirit, O God,
and renew the face of the earth.
Dwell among us,
even though your presence
will startle and unsettle us.
Grant us your peace, we pray,
as justice and love pour down
upon the yearning earth.
Amen.

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We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Choir Anthem

Amen, So Be It!

Natalie Sleeth

+ Benediction

Postlude

The Lord's Prayer (UMH 270)

Lowell Mason

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in honor of Pentecost, Our Confirmands,
and the 55th anniversary of The Mareks.

*Please join us in the Gathering Place between the services
as we celebrate our Confirmands!*

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The United Methodist Church of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**