



*Pentecost*

May 24, 2026

10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship

# WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

## Prelude

Earth and All Stars, Handbell Choir

arr. Shephard

## Worship Song

### Set A Fire

Reagan

### Verse

No place I would rather be  
No place I would rather be  
No place I would rather be  
Than here in Your love  
Here in Your love

(REPEAT)

### Chorus

(So) set a fire down in my soul  
That I can't contain and I can't control  
I want more of You God  
I want more of You God

(REPEAT)

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayers of the Church

### *Refrain*

***Holy Spirit You are welcome here***

***Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere***

***Your glory God is what our hearts long for***

***To be overcome by Your Presence Lord***

Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to unite this broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation, kneeling, sitting, or standing as you are able.

Triune God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Strengthen our inner being, root us deeply in Your love, and open our hearts to the knowledge of Your will. Revive our passion for You, and keep us steadfast in faith as we go out into the world to live out your calling in our lives. Triune God, send your Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bring peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces.

Triune God, send your Holy Spirit on this Memorial Day Weekend as we pray for all members of the military, especially those who died in service to others. We are grateful for their service. May they inspire us to live selflessly in our own lives. May we honor them by loving and caring for all those they have left behind. Give them strength and strengthen our commitment to caring for those who mourn their loss. And we sing...

### *Refrain*

Triune God, send your Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name, especially those on our congregational prayer list and those we name aloud at this time...

*(We now invite you to speak aloud the names of those for whom you are praying.)*

Triune God, send your Holy Spirit to lift up our brothers and sisters around the world and the greater Charlotte/ Matthews area who are struggling with hunger and malnutrition. You have provided an abundance on this earth, yet so many go to sleep with empty stomachs. Bless the ministry of Common Heart and the food drive that we are hosting.

Triune God, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. We sing our Amen.

### *Refrain*

***(Children may head out for C&C Kids)***

### **Sharing of the Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.



**This Week's Story: The Holy Spirit**  
**Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite thing about summer?**

## THE WORD

### Acts 2:1-21

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. <sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>'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.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **John 20:19-23**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**P:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*(Please be seated)*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Matt Simpkins**

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **Anthem**

Come Down to Us, O Holy Spirit

Scialla

Come down to us, O Holy Spirit. Dwell in our hearts with love anew. Come and awaken us, inspire us and shake us. Come down to us, O Holy Spirit.

Come down to us, O Holy Spirit. Dwell in our hearts with love anew. Come and awaken us, inspire us and shake us. Come down to us, O Holy Spirit.

From God above You descend unto earth; Come now and strengthen our hearts.

Come down to us, O Holy Spirit. Dwell in our hearts with love anew. Come and awaken us, inspire us and shake us. Come down to us, O Holy Spirit.

Come down to us, O Holy Spirit. Dwell in our hearts with love anew. Come and awaken us, inspire us and shake us. Come down to us, O Holy Spirit. Come down to us, O Holy Spirit

### **Offertory Hymn**

674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Linstead



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

### Statement of Belief

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. 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. Amen.

## COMMUNION

### Come to the Table-- Everyone's Invited!

*Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!*

### Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

### 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 and ever. Amen.

OR

Our Father, who is of heaven,  
Holy is your name  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
and deliver us from evil  
For yours is the kingdom  
And the power, and the glory  
now and forever, Amen.

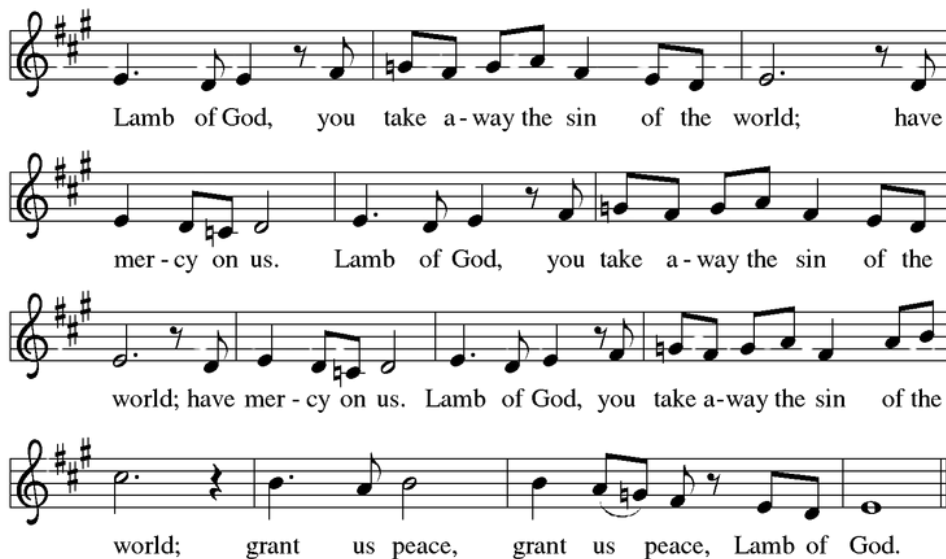
### Welcome to the Table

P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please be seated)

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## Distribution of Holy Communion

### Communion Song

#### Lay It All Down

Reagan, Washington

#### Verse 1

Bring your worry grief and pain  
Every cause you have for shame  
Lay it all down lay it all down  
When your cares have buried you  
And there's nothing left to do  
Lay it all down lay it all down  
At the feet of Jesus at the feet of Jesus

#### Verse 2

Carried on but your heart was tired  
Feared the worst and felt the fire  
Lay it all down lay it all down  
Filled with all those anxious thoughts  
And your doubts became your god  
Lay it all down lay it all down  
At the feet of Jesus at the feet of Jesus

#### Chorus

Lay it all down  
Lay it all down  
Lay it all down  
Lay it all down  
(REPEAT)  
At the feet of Jesus  
At the feet of Jesus

#### Verse 3

When we've given up on better days  
There are memories we can't erase  
Lay it all down lay it all down  
When we've come to fear what we can't explain  
And there's nothing here that can ease the pain  
Lay it all down lay it all down  
At the feet of Jesus at the feet of Jesus

## **The Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

C: **Amen.**

## **Benediction**

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## **Sending Song**

### **Graves Into Gardens**

Lake, Brown, Furtick, Hammer

#### **Verse 1**

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade  
Are never enough  
Then You came along and put me back together  
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

#### **Chorus**

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

#### **Verse 2**

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws  
Lord You've seen them all  
And You still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain  
Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place  
Your mercy and grace won't find me again

#### **Bridge 1**

You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can

#### **Bridge 2**

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can

## **The Doxology** (sung a capella)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

## **Sending**

L: Please read the sending with me.

L: Go in peace and share Cross and Crown's mission with the world.

C: **Following Jesus, loving and serving all!**