

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com
abseconumc@comcast.net

**The Reverend Christopher L. Miller,
Pastor**

miller.chris@comcast.net // (609) 277-7639

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Pentecost

May 23, 2021

Prelude

Spirit Song

John Wimber

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Elizabeth believed in God, and God made her mother of the Baptizer.

People: For nothing is impossible with God.

Leader: Mary believed in God, and God made her mother of Jesus the Savior.

People: For nothing is impossible with God.

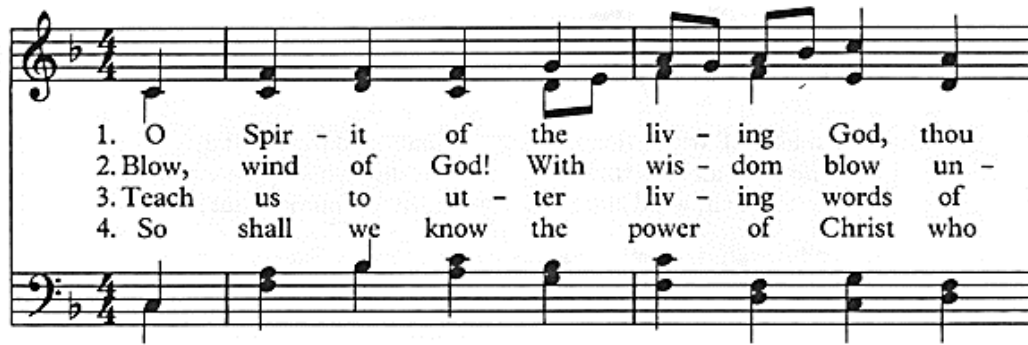
Leader: We believe that with God's help, we can move mountains.

People: For nothing is impossible with God.

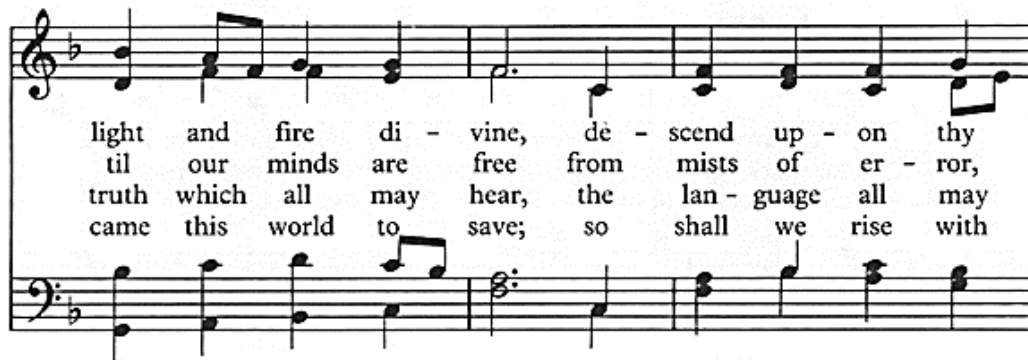
Hymn

O Spirit of the Living God

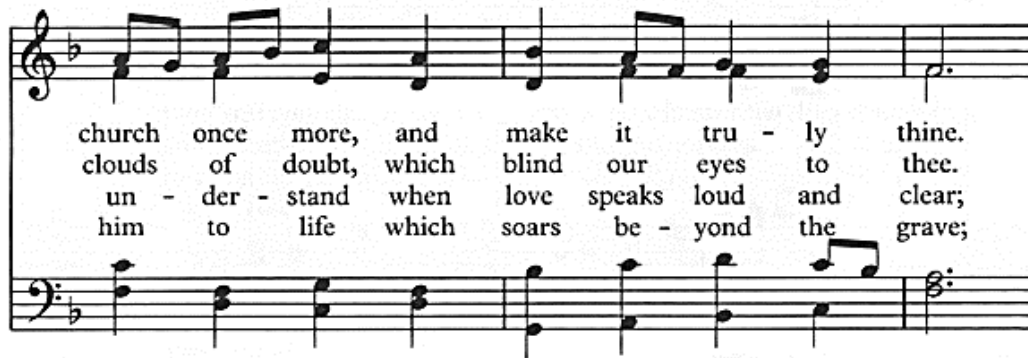
(verses 1, 3, and 4)



1. O Spir - it of the liv - ing God, thou
 2. Blow, wind of God! With wis - dom blow un -
 3. Teach us to ut - ter liv - ing words of
 4. So shall we know the power of Christ who



light and fire di - vine, de - scend up - on thy
 til our minds are free from mists of er - ror,
 truth which all may hear, the lan - guage all may
 came this world to save; so shall we rise with



church once more, and make it tru - ly thine.
 clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.
 un - der - stand when love speaks loud and clear;
 him to life which soars be - yond the grave;



Fill it with love and joy and power, with
 Burn, wing - ed fire! In - spire our lips with
 till ev - ery age and race and clime shall
 and earth shall win true ho - li - ness, which

(continued on next page)

righteousness and peace; till Christ shall dwell in
 flaming love and zeal, to preach to all thy
 blend their creeds in one, and earth shall form one
 makes thy children whole; till, perfected by

human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.
 great good news, God's glorious commonwealth.
 fam-ily by whom thy will is done.
 thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

Opening Prayer

God of us all, you have remained faithful to generation after generation. In every time and season, you have changed hearts and minds so that your way could reign. Help us when we get weak and discouraged to still live as your children in the world. Continue to open us up to encounter your presence around us, seeing the world with eyes and hearts like yours. Move us, O God, Amen.

Hymn

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

(continued on next page)



Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Message

Mountains as Opportunities

(Nothing is Impossible with God)

Part 2 of 2 Sermon Series, "Move Mountains"

Hymn

I Know Whom I Have Believed

1. I know not why God's won-drous grace to me he
2. I know not how this sav-ing faith to me he
3. I know not how the Spir-it moves, con-vinc-ing
4. I know not when my Lord may come, at night or

hath made known, nor why, un-wor-thy, Christ in love re -
did im-part, nor how be-liev-ing in his word wrought
us of sin, re-veal-ing Je-sus through the word, cre-
noon-day fair, nor if I walk the vale with him, or

Refrain
deemed me for his own.
peace with-in my heart. But I know whom I have be-
at-ing faith in him.
meet him in the air.

(continued on next page)



Offering Conversation

Anthem

Fall on Me

Douglas Nolan

Baptism

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church...

...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 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; he descended to the dead. 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 his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and *the one* who *receives* it, to wash away *his* sin and clothe *him* in righteousness throughout *his life*, that, dying and being raised with Christ, *he* 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.**

Calvin, 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 incorporate 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 a member of the family of Christ.

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 prayer, 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.

Prayer Over the Blanket

God of creation and Breath of Life –

We welcome this young child into our church family and a relationship with you. Let this prayer and the prayers as this blanket was lovingly created help him to grow in his relationship with you and realize the deep, abiding love you have for him. Lord, let this blanket show him God's promise of enduring grace as it warms and comforts him. Lord, let this child continue to see the love of his church family every day as he wraps himself in the love and prayers of this blanket. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

(verses 1, 2, and 5)

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear.
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh,
 the kin - dling of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

Benediction

Postlude

See How Great a Flame Aspires

John Scriveyner

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731620.

CCLI: CSPL099122