

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, May 23, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

One: Listen, can you hear the wind?

Many: Come, Holy Spirit; come!

One: Look, can you see the dancing flames?

Many: Come, Holy Spirit; come!

One: Can you hear the message in a language you can understand?

Many: Come, Holy Spirit; come!

One: Do you see the visions? Can you dream the dreams?

Many: Come, Holy Spirit; come!

One: Come let Pentecost become real in our lives this morning. Come and worship our God who sends the Spirit to touch us and transform us into Pentecost people.

*Hymn *“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”*

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it is the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Chorus:

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise
Without a doubt we know that we’ll have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.*

There are blessings you cannot receive,
'Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Unison Prayer Of Invocation

Spirit of God, we long to be open to your presence in our church and in our lives. Fill us with your wind and fire, that we might be enlivened again. Help us hear the words as if for the first time, that they might touch us anew. Give us visions and dreams of what you long for in your creation, so that we might begin to live them into reality. Come, Spirit; come into our worship, into our church, into our very selves.

Children's Message

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

³⁷The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O

my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

A Reading from The New Testament *Romans 8:22-27*

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and 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. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Sermon *“Dem Bones”* - *Pastor Lisa*

*Hymn *“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*
-*Sarah Schneider & Ann Boudreaux, vocals;*
Sarah Schneider, tenor recorder; Anna Emery, flute

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love what
Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure, Until with Thee I will
one will, To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine, Until this earthly part
of me Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die, But live with Thee the
perfect life Of Thine eternity.

Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

Invitation to Give

Offertory

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we thank you for all that you give us each day. We pray now that you bless these gifts we offer in our gratitude; please use them and the work of our lives to further your reign on Earth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*Hymn *"She Comes Sailing on the Wind"* -Sarah Schneider

Refrain

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;
On a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night, full of
laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Verses

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
Like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the east,
Like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
When the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
And then down the ages still she flew on.

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
After dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
The Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

*Benediction