

## **SUNDAY, MAY 20: PENTECOST SUNDAY, GRADUATION SUNDAY**

Title: Core Strength 6: "Sending Love"

Scripture: 1 John 5:1-21 (Lessons #36-44, Pages 105-1)

Memory Verse: 1 John 5:11-12a "And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life."

Video: Training with Bobby Buff (Personal Trainer: At the Gym) (Andrew & Matt L.)

Kids Activity: With the Graduate honoring, crowns.

Blurb: Ever feel half alive? Do you kind of drift through your days? That's not God's intention. God intends eternal life for you. The amazing thing is, your eternal life has already begun! It's not just for later. It's for now, too! You have been given the Holy Spirit to make you fully alive now, and you have a calling to do. This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, marking the coming of the Holy Spirit. But beware, you just might not leave the same as you come!

*Worship begins upstairs. Outline for Call to Worship available for those staying in the Sanctuary.*

**Welcome:** -Pastor David

Good morning! We're starting things off a bit differently today. That's because today is a very special day! It's been 50 days since Easter, and something very important happened 50 days after Easter.

You see, Jesus rose from the dead on Easter. And so, it's often said that Easter is the most important event in history. And it is pretty amazing! Jesus had died on the cross to earn our forgiveness. Jesus had opened the doors of hell to earn our freedom. And on Easter, Jesus rose again to break the power of death. For the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to the disciples and offered Himself as proof of all of this.

Our memory verse today summarizes this testimony we proclaim, this Good News. I'll teach it to you. Repeat after me...

**Memory Verse**

"And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life." -1 John 5:11-12a

**The Story of Pentecost**

After appearing to people for 40 days, Jesus then ascended back to heaven. His work was done on earth...for now. Before He left He gave the disciples His Great Commission, calling all His followers to go out into the world and make disciples in this Good News.

But the disciples were unsure, and unsteady...and unready! They knew Jesus, they knew the Good News, and they knew the Commission, but they didn't do it. Rather than going *out*, they went back *in*. They stayed together in Jerusalem, and for the next 10 days, they huddled together back in the Upper Room, and hid behind locked doors. This was where they had spent the last evening with Jesus, where He had washed their feet and hosted the Last Supper. Rather than going out like Jesus had said, they went back into this place.

But then, 50 days after Easter, in that room, something amazing happened. And perhaps what happened then was perhaps the most important event in history.

That's why we're here today. We're starting our worship here in our upper room. We're here to remember, and participate in this most amazing event.

We hear the story of what happened in Acts, chapter 2. [Acts 2:1-41 (CEB)]

Reader #1: "When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, 'Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? 8 How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ... We hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!' They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, 'What does this mean?' Others jeered at them, saying, 'They're full of new wine!'

"Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared,...

Reader #2: "...Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel, 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. ... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

"Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through Him among you. You yourselves know this. In accordance with God's established plan and foreknowledge, He was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. God raised him up! God freed Him from death's dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to Him. ... Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.'

Reader #1: "When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter replied,...

Reader #2: "...Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.'

Reader #1: "With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day."

### **Pentecost Message**

The miracle of Pentecost was God giving the Holy Spirit into each of His people. It is the Holy Spirit that applies Jesus' victory into each of our lives. It is the Holy Spirit that changed the first disciples. It changed them from being scared, and from hiding in the upper room, and pushed them down and out into the street. It was a miracle of hearing, for because of the Holy Spirit, each

person could hear the disciples speaking in their own native language. It is the Holy Spirit that translates the Gospel we share to those who need to hear it.

We are like those first disciples. We are called to go make disciples. We are given the Holy Spirit. We are pushed down and out of our upper room!

In the back of the room are little battery candles. I want you each to pick one up. As you do, I want you to invite the Holy Spirit into your heart again. Proclaim that Jesus has won your forgiveness of sins. Commit to change your heart and life. Today we participate in Pentecost! You are part of the God's people of Pentecost! Take your battery candle and turn on the flame as a witness that you have the Holy Spirit's "tongues of fire" in your life. Leave it on throughout the service.

We now sing our Pentecost prayer. As we do, go and get your candle, and then process downstairs into the main sanctuary.

**Song:** *Breath on Me, Breath of God* (UMH #420) -Sanctify

***Move to the Sanctuary***

***Worship Continues in the Sanctuary***

**Worship Music Set:** - Sanctify

*Chain Breaker (with Pentecost witness testimony)*

*Restoration*

Worship Prayer - Andrew

**Prayers:** (David)

Graduation is on our minds. It's a time of grand celebration!

Yet we heard tell of another school shooting on Friday!

In 2018, there has been an average of more than one school shooting per week across the nation!

Friday, a normal-seeming student killed 17 people at Santa Fe High School, Texas.

So, on this Graduation Sunday, I want to call us to prayer.

I can say nothing other than this is wrong. This is heartbreaking.

When we don't know what to do, we must go to God in prayer.

Only God can bring hope and healing, and a different future.

So, I'm going to ask that we keep a minute of silence in honor of the victims.

Let's stand, not only as a sign of respect, but also as a sign of our Christian defiance, standing up against hatred, violence, despair, and standing in our trust of God.

Let's use this moment of silence to each pray for God to bring hope and light to our world of darkness.

Will you stand with me in respectful and defiant prayer...

[Close in led prayer.]

Thank you, please be seated.

**Addressing the Graduates:** The Crown Awaiting

This week is graduation at Forest Lake High School. So, here at Forest Hills, we're honoring our graduates today. We have two from our high school, Josh Sarver and Morgan Laughlin. We also have a college graduate, Marissa Duryee, but she is not back from North Carolina yet. We hope to see her soon.

So, as we celebrate graduation, it's customary to give congratulations to our graduates, to wish them well, and then give them lots of advice: tips for being successful, rules to live by, and how to make it "out there."

But you know what? Isn't that what we've been doing all along? Parents, haven't you been guiding your kids on the good path of life? And we here at church have tried to pour into them over the years, too. So, giving more advice really isn't going to do a lot of good, I imagine.

So, instead this morning, I want to give our graduates a mental picture.

It's a picture about the future.

With our graduates, we talk a lot about beginnings: the beginning of the new adventure, the beginning of the next phase of life, beginning a new future. But for your mental picture, I don't want to have you look at that future. In stead, I want you to look farther ahead, much farther. I want you to have a picture of the day when your life here on earth finishes.

I know, as teens and graduates, it's hard to think about the end of your life, but this mental picture comes straight from the Bible.

It's how Paul is talking to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:6. Paul is looking at the end of his life. And for him, he fears it may be coming soon! And so, he writes Timothy, in this second letter, that he's looking back and thinking how he did. And he says that because he chose Jesus, and lived for Him day by day, year after year, he feels at peace about dying.

He writes, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, "The time of my death seems to be approaching, and I'm already being poured out like a sacrifice to God. 7 I have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. At last, the champion's crown awarded for righteousness is waiting for me. The Lord, who is the righteous judge, is going to give it to me on that day. He's giving it not only to me but also to all those who have set their heart on waiting for His Second Coming."

This is the mental picture I want to share with you. Imagine yourself on your final day of life here on earth. Imagine yourself looking back over your life. How did you live it? What choices did you make? As you get ready to leave all the stuff of this world behind—the money, possessions, influence, fame, power—have you chosen to live by what will last eternally? Have you chosen Jesus, and lived for Him day by day, throughout the years?

Will you be able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race with honor, and I get to receive the crown of victory"?

Did you hear the end of what Paul said? This crown of righteousness, that Paul said Jesus was getting ready to give to him, is also for all those who set their hearts on Jesus!

That's you!

So today, decades before you face your death—we hope and pray—I want you to carry this mental image into the future, whatever it may hold for you.

I'm going to give you some gold as a graduation present! Well, actually, gold-colored plastic. I have here a costume crowns for each of you. I want it to remind you of your mental picture that you must keep with you into the future. Put it in your room, wherever you go, and let it remind you of the real crown of righteousness that Jesus is preparing for you.

So, no long lists of advice. Just one image to carry forward. As you venture into the next chapter of your lives, picture the day when you meet Jesus. Live now, day by day, so that on that day, you can imagine Him extending you your crown. And when you do, His Spirit will guide you through whatever the future may hold for you.

So...Let's hear about your futures and plans!

Come on up here, Morgan and Josh!

**Honoring the Graduates:** (David)

Introduction of graduates: Morgan Laughlin and Josh Sarver.

Graduates share name, school, summer plans, fall plans:

Josh Sarver will leave for basic training with the MN Army National Guard June 5.  
He is attending the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City SD starting August 16, majoring in geological engineering.

Marissa Duryee

Presenting graduates with quilts: Julianne Benson

Prayer of blessing over graduates

Mentors hold the crowns *above* their heads (not ON—they haven't earned it yet)

Morgan Laughlin: Hellen Ash

Josh Sarver: Nick Masterjohn

Pray blessing, for the Holy Spirit to go with them, and  
for them to live into the crowns Jesus has planned for them.

There is cake in your honor after worship today!

Graduates can be seated.

**Kid's Lesson:**

Now, I know the kids here have been really excited about these crowns.

So, kids, come on up here. I've got some other crowns for you!

Did you understand what I said to the graduates?

Some day, when we die, or if Jesus comes back before we do, the Bible says He is going to  
give us a crown of victory.

Crown is about how we have done a good job in this life, living for Jesus.

So, I went to Burger King yesterday and got paper crowns. I'm going to give you each one.

I want you to wear it now, to remember that you've got a crown coming in heaven,

And now, each day, you have to live to get ready to wear it.

That means living today like Jesus wants you to.

So, when you wear this paper crown, you have to live like Jesus wants you to.

OK? So, wear your crown to help you remember to live for Jesus today, and some day, you'll  
get a real crown. And it will be better than real...it'll be better than you can imagine!

Let's pray: Help the kids live every day to get the crown Jesus has for them.

**Offering:** *God Is Love*

**Video:** Training with Bobby Buff (Andrew & Matt)

**Message:** Core Strength 6: "Sending Love"

**Bumper Video**

**PP#1:** Core Strength: The Second Half of the Gospel

"And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. The one  
who has the Son has life." -1 John 5:11-12a

Core Strength: “Sending Love.” 1 John 5:11-12a, “And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life.”

**PP#2:** *Image from* <https://www.goodfon.com/wallpaper/get-stronger-bodybuilders.html>

Well, my friends, we have made it to the end of our spiritual workout course! We’ve been reading through 1 John in the Bible in order to work our spiritual cores. And we’ve been getting all spiritually “buffed” and “pumped up!” This is how we all look, spiritually, mind you!

So, next week, we start our new series, on living as mature Christians. We’re calling it “Turning 21,” and for 21 days we’ll be asking 21 different questions that will help us act like the mature—and buff—Jesus-followers we have become!

**PP#3:** 1 John 4:7-11 (CEB)

7 Dear friends, let’s love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. 8 The person who doesn’t love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. 10 This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. 11 Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.

But today, we come to the last chapter of 1 John, and John is pulling it all together. God is love. Not just “feeling” love, but deep, committed, action love. *We have seen* this love of God come in Jesus to reclaim us. *We experience* this love given into us by the Holy Spirit living in us. *We live out* this love by acting sacrificially for others. Our core strength in God is love!

Today we’re going to start in the middle of the chapter. Look down to 1 John 5:10.

**PP#4:** 1 John 5 (CEB)

10 The one who believes in God’s Son has the testimony within ... the testimony that God gave about His Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. 12 The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn’t have God’s Son does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of God’s Son so that you can know that you have eternal life.

Here John describes this godly love—demonstrated, experienced, and lived out—as a “big idea!” What does it mean to live this Christian life of love? It means...eternal life!

Now, normally, we think about eternal life as that life we live *after* we die, right? But John doesn’t put it off somewhere in the future. Eternal life begins when we choose Jesus. That means it starts *before* we die! Yes, it carries on into eternity of time, but eternal life is living a relationship with Jesus. And that, church, we have now. Our eternal life begins when we are “born again,” born anew into a life that will never end.

Think about that! John is saying that because God is love, we, who are born again into that love, achieved by Jesus’ death on the cross, symbolized in us by baptism, and lived because of the Holy Spirit in us, we have already started our eternal lives!

This is why death is not longer important. It’s merely an upgrade in the bodies we live in. You and I, we will experience death. No, not just that it will happen to us, but we will be alive *through* it! This is a pretty big deal!

Let's read starting with verse 10. "The one who believes in God's Son has the testimony within [now in the previous verses he explained that this three-fold witness is 1) the water of baptism, 2) the blood of Jesus' sacrifice, and 3) the Holy Spirit within us] ... the testimony that God gave about His Son. [This is the witness from God Himself!] 11 And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. 12 The one who has the Son has life. [See? Eternal life, given to us by God, through His Son Jesus, comes when we take Jesus. Not when we die. No! Before that: when we have Jesus!] The one who doesn't have God's Son does not have life. [Death is still real.] 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of God's Son so that you can know that you have eternal life." You have it! Right now! Not some day. Now!

**PP#5: Sending Love**

1. Eternal life is now!

Our core strength as Jesus-followers is God's holy love. And that love has given us eternal life. Church, you are living your eternal lives right now. That means that because of the Holy Spirit within you, you have access now to what the eternal life will be. You can, right now, defeat sin. You can resist it. You can keep God's commandments. You can love your neighbor. You may not do it perfectly, but you can experience it in part. When we have strengthened cores of godly love, we can live more right now like the eternal life will look like some day. It has started now, but it won't be completed until Jesus returns. Now we must continue to put effort into loving with God's holy love.

**PP#6: 1 John 5 (CEB)**

18 We know that everyone born from God is not a sinner, but the ones born from God guard themselves, and the evil one cannot touch them. 19 We know we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 20 We know that God's Son has come and has given us understanding to know the One who is true. We are in the One who is true by being in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols!

Skip down to verse 18. Here are the last verses of 1 John. "We know that everyone born from God are not sinners, [we are justified, and we have the power to resist committing willful sins] but the ones born from God guard themselves [work their cores, and continue to put in the effort], and the evil one cannot touch them. [He's trying, but you can resist him!] 19 We know we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. [The world does not live by love. It is consumed by self-centeredness.] 20 We know that God's Son has come and has given us understanding to know the One who is true. [He's in his conclusion, now. He's ending with our assurance and certainty.] We are in the One who is true [here is our identity, we are in Jesus. We are God's children! The One who is true is God. God is all that is right and true. No falsehood here. Only what is real, and true! And we are His kids. We are in Him] by being in His Son, Jesus Christ. [When we are in Jesus, we are in God. We live eternal lives!] *This is the true God and eternal life.* [What a soaring truth to end on!] 21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols!"

Okay, kind of a weird ending. Kind of a tack-on, don't you think?

But wait. This is a rule that sums everything else up. Idols are anything that keep us from God, what is true, who is life. We have the Holy Spirit, so we need to guard against anything pushing God from our number one spot. Loving with godly love means keeping God first.

Maybe it's not such a bad summary, after all.

**PP#7: Sending Love**

1. Eternal life is now!
2. Live with the end in mind

So, if we have begun the eternal life, then living now means living with that end in mind. It's kind of like the crowns I talked about with the graduates. We have a crown of life ready for us. But now, as we live in this world of the evil one, we must work our spiritual cores of love to guard from idols and not forfeit eternal life. We are destined for a crown. Now, we live into it. We live now with a crown-worthy head. We live each day now in the reality of God's love, the Holy Spirit within, and eternal life, like I said to the graduates, so we will not forfeit our crowns of righteousness.

**PP#8: 1 John 5 (CEB)**

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. 3 This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, 4 because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. 5 Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?

Today is Pentecost, and we celebrate that God's holy love is a sending love. We see that clearly in the beginning of 1 John 5. Go back up to verse one, where we can see it. "*Everyone* who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God." See? Jesus is for *everyone*! That's a key word here. It's a key word of God's love. It's a key word in the Bible. It's a key word for Pentecost. The Good News is for everyone!

"Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent."

If you've got kids, and I truly love you, I will also love your kids. If not, it's not true love, because you love your kids. Same with God. We can't love God if we don't love God's kids. Our love for them—the other people on earth—sends us to them with the news of God's love in Jesus. God's love sends us to love every one of God's kids and to make sure they can know Jesus.

Verse 2, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. [God's commandments are to love one another. We love by action, right? Our behaviors is how we show our godly love for others.] 3 This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, 4 because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. [We can do it. We are born again in this eternal life, and we have the Holy Spirit to make us live differently.] And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. 5 Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?"

**PP#9: Sending Love**

1. Eternal life is now!
2. Live with the end in mind
3. Love sends

Godly love sends. It sends Jesus to our world to reconcile us back to God. It sends the Holy Spirit to live in each of us when we choose to follow Jesus. Pick up your battery candle. Be sure the



light is on. We have the Holy Spirit in each one of us. And it sends us out into the world, down and out from our places of timid safety, and into showing love by actions to the other children of God.

We began this service up in our upper room, where we heard the Pentecost story. Like the first disciples, we receive the Holy Spirit and are sent down from the upper room.

We're going to end our service with one more move. I'm going to invite us to move from in here, to *outside* our building. We're going out there, where the sidewalk is. We're going out there, to where the rest of God's children are.

**PP#10: *Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here***

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!

When we get out there, we'll sing our closing song. It's in your bulletin insert. It's called, *Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here*. Now, we normally sing this song at the beginning of our worship service, inviting the Holy Spirit to come among us. But we've been working our spiritual cores, and now we hear this invitation for the Holy Spirit to be welcomed not just among us, but out there in the rest of the world. As we sing it, make it your prayer for our world. The words say, "flood this place and fill the atmosphere." "This place" is now our community, around where we live. Our atmosphere is all where we go. Our hearts long for God's glory to be among everyone. We want God's presence to go wherever we go.

I'm going to ask Sanctify to go outside now and begin our song. We will follow them out, and line up along the sidewalks. Take your candle with you again. Also take the words for the song, and let's make this song our prayer: the Holy Spirit pushing us out. We have experienced God's sending love!

The Holy Spirit pushes us out!  
It's Pentecost!

**Processing Out to the Sidewalk**

**Closing Song: *Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here* - Sanctify**

1) There's nothing worth more	That could ever come close
No thing can compare	You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord	I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves	Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone	Your presence, Lord

*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  
Your presence, Lord

2. There's nothing worth more	That could ever come close
No thing can compare	You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord	I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves	Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone	Your presence, Lord. <i>Refrain:</i>

**Memory Verse**

“And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life.” -1 John 5:11-12a

**Announcements:**

Cake reception for the graduates.

**Benediction:** -Pastor David

**Cake for graduates.**

# CALL TO WORSHIP

## *For Those Not Going Upstairs*

SUNDAY, MAY 20: PENTECOST SUNDAY

*In celebration of Pentecost Sunday, morning worship will begin upstairs and then process down here to the sanctuary. We begin upstairs to remember and reenact the Pentecost story, which began with the disciples gathering in the upper room. The worship in our own “upper room” will begin with a greeting, the telling and reading of the Pentecost story, reciting this week’s Memory Verse, taking a candle to mark the coming of the Holy Spirit, and then processing down here to the Sanctuary while singing.*

*Those not wishing to go upstairs are invited to remain in the sanctuary for others to arrive. While waiting, please begin worship with the following:*

### **Welcome:**

Welcome to Forest Hills Church, where we love God and others, grow in Jesus, and serve by the power and leading of the Holy Spirit!

If this is your first time at FHC, a special welcome to you! Please stop by the Welcome Center on your way out of worship in order to pick up a mug. We want you to know that God “fills your cup to overflowing” with blessings!

### **Memory Verse**

“And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life.” -1 John 5:11-12a

### **The Story of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-41 (CEB)**

1 When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. 4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

5 There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. 7 They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? 8 How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ... We hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” 12 They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” 13 Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

14 Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! 15 These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! 16 Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. ... 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through him among you. You yourselves know this. 23 In accordance with God’s established plan and foreknowledge, he was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. 24 God raised him up! God freed him from death’s dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him. ... 36 Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

37 When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.” 40 With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” 41 Those who accepted Peter’s message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

### **Prayer:**

Open your heart to invite the Holy Spirit in again. Proclaim that Jesus has won your forgiveness of sins. Commit to change your heart and life.

### **Response:**

By praying this prayer, you are participating in the story of Pentecost! You are part of the God’s people of Pentecost! Take your battery candle and turn on the flame as a witness that you have the Holy Spirit’s “tongues of fire” in your life. Leave it on throughout the service.

### **Song:** *Breath on Me, Breath of God* (UMH #420)

*Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889, Music: Robert Jackson, 1842-1914*

The rest of the congregation will be singing this as they enter the sanctuary. To join this worship, sing or pray through the words:

1. 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.
  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,      until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will,      to do and to endure.
  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,      till I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me      glows with thy fire divine.
  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,      so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life      of thine eternity.