

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe*  
*Day of Pentecost*  
*May 23, 2021*



Prelude

**Threshold Moment**

Ezekiel has a vision of a valley full of bones receiving life, breath, sinew, and flesh after encountering the word of God. When they arise, they receive Spirit and they dance! As Easter people we celebrate the Spirit that continues to give life and breath to our dry bones. We dare to dance in the face of fear, in the face of cynicism, in the face of despair. We dare to dance “as long as we live” for we, like the early Christians, are the recipients of the Spirit of God which intercedes even when we think we can’t make it to the dance floor.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

The day of Pentecost calls us to dance – to dance in the wind and fire of the Spirit, With those in Jerusalem on that day, may we dare to dream – to imagine – to let our breath be taken away by the Spirit – and to dance!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

This is the call!  
The flames of the Spirit are beckoning.  
**We lift up our heads to meet the day.**  
Our focus is on the future and what we can do together.  
**We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**  
When rain comes, we will open the umbrellas of joy and set out anyway.  
**For we are called to dance again!**

**Opening Song of Praise**  
*“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”*

**Prayer**

Ann Lux, Liturgist

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –  
Praise to you for your indwelling Spirit,  
which comes along side us,  
and moves within our lives.  
Lead us in your Spirit dance of love.  
We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Holy and Merciful God,  
We do not know how to pray as we ought,  
And we know too well our constant failures  
To do as you have commanded  
And to hold fast to your word.  
Forgive us for the divisions we nurture,  
Guide us to your way,  
Keep us in your care,  
And lead us into faith.  
We trust your word that the Spirit of truth  
Will show us all things  
And grant us courage and peace.  
Remind us again and again  
To dance in your love and to the beat of your heart.  
Lord of Life. Lord of Light. Lord of Resurrection. Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.  
**And also, with you.**  
You are invited to turn to wave to each other as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

**A Story for All Ages**  
*(Time with Children)*

**The Story**

Kim Hooper

**Let's offer a repeat-after-me-prayer:**

“We offer thanks  
**we offer thanks**  
for dreamers true  
**for dreamers true**  
for all they are  
**for all they are**  
and all they do.  
**and all they do.**  
Let us become  
**let us become**  
dreamers too  
**dreamers too**  
and bring new life  
**and bring new life**  
to me and you!  
**to me and you!**  
Amen!  
**Amen!**

### **Reading of the Word**

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*NRSV*)

Ann Lux, Liturgist

### **Sounds of Resurrection**

“I Sing the Mighty Power”

**Second Reading:** Acts 2:1-21 (*NRSV*)  
**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler  
Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,  
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*From "A Brief Statement of Faith"*

Ann Lux, Liturgist

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
We trust in one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
Whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God, the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world  
The Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,  
following Christ in a life resurrected,  
teach me to act with compassion and justice,  
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

### **Song for Stepping Out into the World**

“Go to the World!”

#### **Charge**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Poet Rainer Maria Rilke said,

“That designing Spirit,  
the mastermind of all things on earth,  
loves nothing so much in the sweeping movement of the dance  
as the turning point.”

The Day of Pentecost is a turning point for the church – then and now!  
The Spirit lives in us and calls us to boldness and brilliance,  
to dance with the rhythm of the Spirit.

#### **Blessing**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Our Loving God,  
Risen Christ,  
and Dancing, Swirling Spirit  
will fill you with all you need.  
May your life bring the beat of the Spirit  
to all needing the rhythm of God’s love.  
The rhythm of Again and Again.  
Go forth and dare to dance!  
Be God’s love letter to the world!  
And all God’s people said, **Alleluia! Amen.**

#### **Postlude**

Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Declaration of Forgiveness used/adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, Yr. B, Vol. I*. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2014. p. 183-186.

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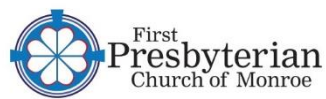
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Ann Lux, Liturgist  
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*A special thank you to the Handbell Ensemble  
Jenn Edwards, Handbell Director*



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