

## **Sermon for May 24 Baptism and Pentecost Sunday<sup>1</sup>**

### **Acts 2:1-21**

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 – all together in that one place, just like we are this morning.

The Spirit rushed in  
dramatically filling and renewing Jesus' followers.

The Spirit made itself known  
by the sound of wind,  
a vision of tongues of fire,  
and the gift of many languages.

Here in a nutshell is my three point five hundred word sermon about  
the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The wind/breath/gift of Spirit on the day of Pentecost brought life.  
The wind/breath/gift of Spirit spoke to each in a way they could  
uniquely understand.

The wind/breath/gift of Spirit on the day of Pentecost renewed and  
strengthened the believers.

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The Holy Spirit, known also as the third person of the Trinity moves among us unexpectedly creatively and dramatically – you know not where she comes from or where she goes,  
She always brings life, and she renews and strengthens God’s people.

The truth is our lives are full. We become deadened by the burdens of life’s demands and work, by rush and busy and responsibility.

Sometimes we forget who we are. The structure and housing that is our life occasionally crumbles under the pressure.

I have in my mind an image of an adobe house in the deserts of Phoenix or New Mexico. Rain and wind and heat wear away adobe structures. They are in constant need of repair and renewal, “and there is always an old round woman with bedroom-slipped feet who is patting mud slurry on the adobe walls. Wearing an old apron, her dress longer in the front than in the back, she mixes straw and water and earth, and pats it back on the walls, making them fine again. With her hands, she pat-a-pat-pats. Without her, the house will lose its shape, without her, it will wash down into a lump after a hard rain.” *From Women who Run with the Wolves*

Like her the Holy Spirit is known for creatively, renewing and sustaining life.

Picture if you will the breath Spirit of God hovering over the deep at the beginning of creation,

Picture the breath Spirit of God enfleshing and filling the dry bones of Ezekiel's valley

Picture if you will the flying dove Spirit descending on Jesus and anointing him with his unique vocation.

Picture if you will Jesus telling his disciples that this same Spirit will come and enliven, companion and comfort them.

Picture if you will the rushing wind breath of the Spirit in that Room on Pentecost.

In the baptismal ritual that we just witnessed. I baptized Donny with water and I prayed that God would baptize Donny with the Holy Spirit.

I also pray this morning that God will baptize TUMC with a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit to each creatively and uniquely, so that each may understand in his/her own language and so that together we will be filled with new life and together we will be strengthened and renewed.

Amen.

