

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, May 24, 2026
Pentecost Sunday
Liturgical Color: Red
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
240 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California 94920

This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Call to Worship (8:30)

One: Holy Spirit, come upon us as you did at the first Pentecost.
Many: **Give us the ability to understand one another.**
One: Let us pray for modern day prophets and elders.
Many: **Empower each of us with a good word to offer the world.**

Opening Blessing (10:00)

We have gathered in this one place having come from many places. We pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon us here as it did on the first Pentecost, when people could understand across the divides of language and culture. We pray for the Spirit to empower modern prophets and elders and to give each of us a good word to offer the world. Amen.

Community Prayer

God, your Holy Spirit is all around. It is available, within and among us. It moves where it will, using whomever it desires. Forgive us if we have erred in whose voice we listen to. Help us to discern carefully. Forgive us if we have shirked our own responsibility to speak a word of love to the world, even if it is a challenging one. Help us rise to the occasion of this moment, that we all might be instruments of your divine music. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

Shared - Spirit Series

Robert McClellan

Today, we pair the familiar Pentecost reading from Acts, in which the Holy Spirit enables the gathered diverse crowd members to understand one another, with a story of the Spirit

empowering elders to speak in the Book of Numbers. In this less familiar story, we see the uncontrollable power of the Spirit to choose who it will to offer a good word to the community. Moreover, Moses proclaims, “Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets!” We consider all of our calling to invite the Spirit in and be a voice for God’s way of love in the world.

Scripture(s)

First Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-18

1When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes 11Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 ‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

Second Scripture Reading

Numbers 11:24-30

24So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. 25Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

26Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" 29But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" 30And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Hymns

O Day of Joy and Wonder! 290

We All Are One in Mission 733

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

"The Holy Spirit is not a thing but a way of describing how God is at work in the world."

— Rowan Williams

1. Who are the voices with the most power right now? How happy are you with them?
2. Have you had an experience of the Spirit giving you words? What was that like?
3. How can we invoke the Spirit to guide our words and actions?
4. Who are we not listening to but should be?
5. What is ours to say that we are not saying?