

Message for Sunday, May 24, 2026

Scripture: John 7: 37-39

Message (no title)

## **Welcome**

**Announcements: Giving Options:** in the back, online, using the QR Code, text, etc...

**Special Offering** in June will be Peace with Justice, we are wrapping up May special offering of Verde Valley Sanctuary; **Scholarship** applications are due on June 1.

**Hospitality:** We need chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal cookies for hospitality. We need hospitality help from July through October. **Book Club** will be on Tuesday, June 2, at 9:30AM in Verde Hall. NEW TIME; **Sermons in the Mail:** Do you know anyone who might want to receive our weekly message in the mail or via email? Give the office a call; **Food bank** needs for May are: meals in a can, crackers, peanut butter; **Men's coffee** meets Tuesday mornings at 7:30AM.

## **Fellowship of Love**

### **Song**

### **Call to Worship**

L: Listen! Do you hear a sound like the howling of a fierce wind?

**P: Come, Holy Spirit!**

L: Look! Can you see the flames of fire?

**P: Come, Holy Spirit!**

L: Wait! Can you feel the power?

**P: The Holy Spirit is here!**

### **Unison Prayer**

**Holy Spirit, power of God, come and fill us with your strength.**

**May your Spirit touch each of us. Gather us with our different gifts into one community.**

**Give us eyes to see your work.**

**May the winds of the Spirit blow away our fears, and fill us with power.**

**Open our hearts, that we may welcome everyone. Amen.**

L: As we come to this time of offering, let us remember that giving is an opportunity to respond to God's generosity with our own.

### **Scripture: John 7:37-39 NRSVue**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,

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and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' "

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Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

L: The word of God for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

### **Message:**

This past week has been an insane week of running from one thing to the next for me. I went on several field trips and did field day as well as cleaning my classroom and getting somethings set up for next year. I don't bring this up for your pity, I bring this up because I have always found it interesting when certain conversations happen. What I mean by this is sometimes conversations happen that drop into the middle of craziness that you don't really think should be there.

On the bus for the one field trip I was talking with another teacher, one much younger than me, and we were just talking about a lot of randomness. Later in the day I made a suggestion in a situation the individual was talking about and she said, "you give really good advice." I had this happen in other ways too. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are boiling little cauldrons of emotions right now with the end of the school year and moving into high school. I've been in several conversations with these kids as I try to help them process what they are feeling. Encouraging them to look towards the future as well as celebrate the good things from the past.

I'm not bringing these examples up to talk about how you should listen to me because I give good advice. I'm bringing these examples up because I have found it interesting to think about when God might be speaking through me. You see we claim that Christ is in us, and if you've been in the church very long you hear about the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit might give you words to say. This is contrary to what I've found. Usually, I don't know if it's the Holy Spirit talking through me, till after it is said and till after the advice is taken.

This morning we are celebrating the birth of the church. Pentecost Sunday is the day we remember when the physical representation of the Holy Spirit came and landed on the disciples as tongues of flame, and the disciples spoke in other tongues spreading the gospel. This is the moment the church is born. It is not the moment that the Holy Spirit is given. The gospel of John makes it clear; Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to the disciples

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immediately after the resurrection. This passage today is one of those that builds the thread of the Holy Spirit being given or coming to the disciples.

Through out history the church has gone through waves of growth and change. Not all of the growth has been inspired by God; in fact, I would argue that most of the time the Holy Spirit works through the church in spite of the church. The early church experienced the Holy Spirit, then later there was a split between Paul and Peter in how to reach the Gentiles. It was Paul disobeying and calling Peter out on it that caused the church to grow in reaching the Gentiles.

Later, Emperor Constantine was inspired to baptize his whole army and make Christianity the state religion. A lot about the church changed at that point, and there are many, myself included, that wonder if his actions were for the right reason. Regardless of the changes, the Holy Spirit was still at work and guided the development of the church. Developing the canon, developing theology, developing how the church would act and react in the world.

Fast forward a few hundred years and you get the Protestant Reformation. An attempt to call the church back to its roots pre-Constantine. This ultimately led to the birth of us, the United Methodist through John Wesley and his preaching of social holiness. All of these things had involvement of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit influencing and guiding. While there are a few individuals in this brief synopsis of history who would feel confident in saying they knew what God wanted, I think most would respond just as I do. They were giving the best advice they could at the time they were in.

Ultimately what we are talking about is the fact that the Holy Spirit speaks to us and through us all the time. This is the living water coming from Jesus and coming out through us to others that is mentioned in this passage. The reason I am talking about it in the depth I am is because if you're like me you may not feel like the spirit is speaking through you, but the spirit is.

Let me give you another route to understand this communication. Have you ever thought about how we communicate? I don't mean what method do we use like reading or talking. I mean have you thought about how absurd communication really is? Books are a great example of this. We pick up books, essentially dead trees with squiggly lines all over them and we hallucinate what those words mean in our minds. We don't even know if we agree on the meaning of those words, which is why we look at other squiggly lines to tell us what those words might mean. Especially if we are separated by great lengths of time.

Talking is just as crazy. Think about it. How do you know that you are talking about the same thing? The truth is, you don't. It takes a lot of trust that there is a common

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language and usage being used. You know about this because if you've ever talked with someone using slang of some sort you know that you can get lost fast.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0j2dVuhr6s> a classic example of this is the talk jive scene in the comedy "Airplane." This is definitely dated, but you get what I am trying to show here. You can be speaking the same language but not have the meaning behind it.

So, what is our point with this. I want you to understand that sometimes the Holy Spirit is speaking to us through others or is using us to speak to others and we don't know it. All we can do is be open to the Spirit of God using us. If as a church we are to continue to grow if as believers, and we are to mature more in our faith-we need to trust that the Holy Spirit is speaking and will give us the words to say. I think we worry too much about saying and doing the right thing which can keep us from being who we are meant to be. When people ask me for advice, or I'm trying to help someone navigate a situation I am still me. I am still uniquely Jonathan, and the Holy Spirit uses that to help others.

I want to encourage you to allow the Spirit to speak through you. Be open to sharing about your faith, offering advice and support. It is through those actions that the Holy Spirit uses us to grow ourselves and to grow our church. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer**

**Song**

**Benediction**

**Song**

**Goodbye**