

# Bethel United Church of Christ

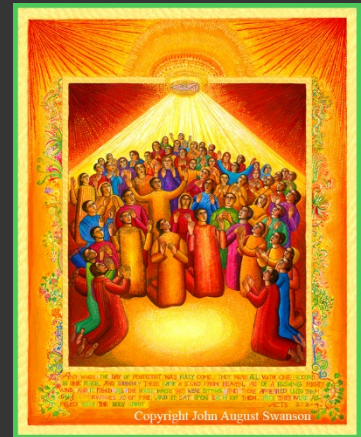
June 9, 2019–

*Pentecost*

*“Earth Wind and Fire”*

No matter who you are  
or where you are on life’s  
journey, you are welcome  
here

*Welcome - please use the  
music of the prelude to quietly  
prepare yourself for worship  
in this sacred space.*



## Call to Worship - Responsive

L: Come, Holy Spirit of God!  
Bring your mighty power into our lives.

**P: Rush through our spirits,  
inspiring us to witness to the great love of God.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit of God!  
Burn light bright flames in our hearts.

**P: Emblazon us with the confident spirit of faith  
that our lives will show your love.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit of God!  
Be with us today in our thoughts and our prayers.

**P: Come, Holy Spirit of God!  
Be with us in our words and our deeds. AMEN.**

A circular mosaic floor, likely from an ancient Roman or Greek site, featuring a central spiral design. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles, including shades of blue, green, yellow, and brown. The spiral is formed by a series of concentric, slightly offset tiles that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall design is intricate and well-preserved.

# *Invocation*

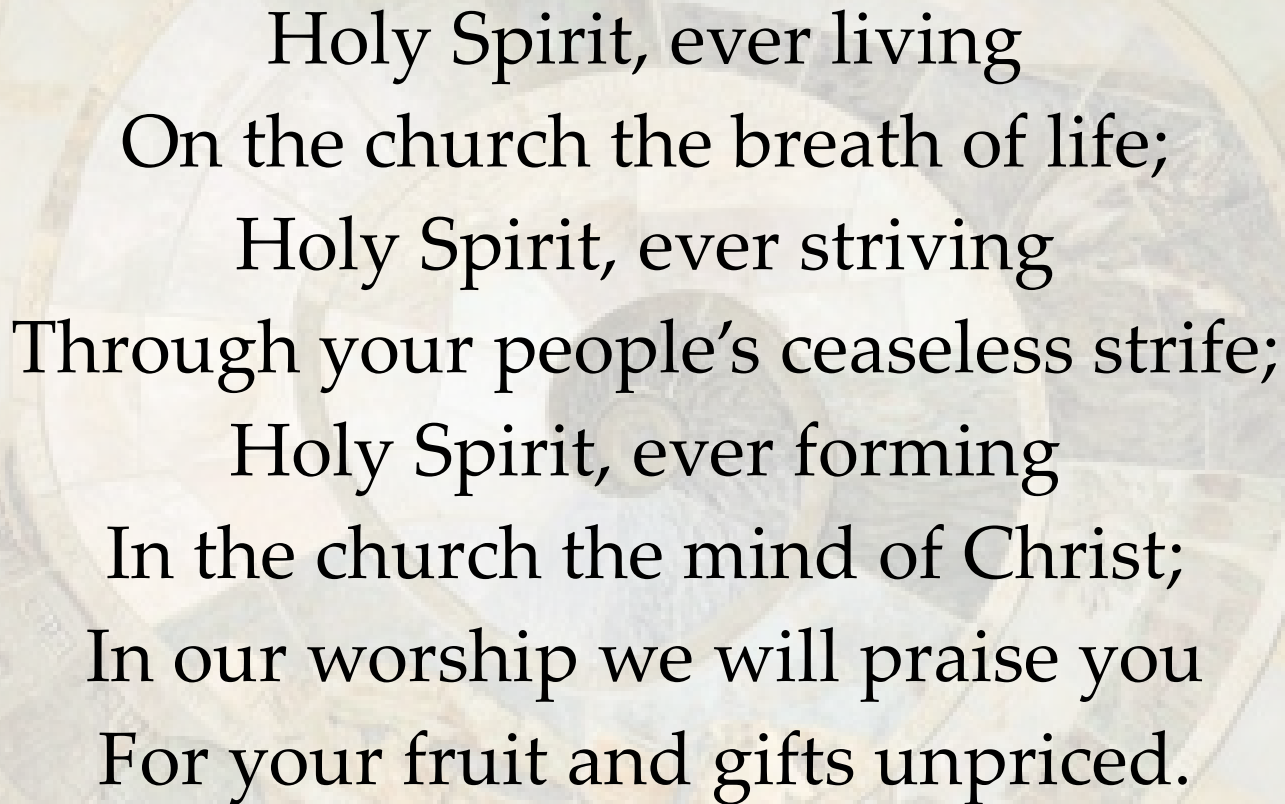
A circular mosaic floor with a central circular design and a surrounding ring of figures. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles, including shades of blue, green, and brown. The central design is a circular pattern, and the surrounding ring features several figures, possibly saints or historical figures, arranged in a circular pattern.

# *Gathering Hymn*

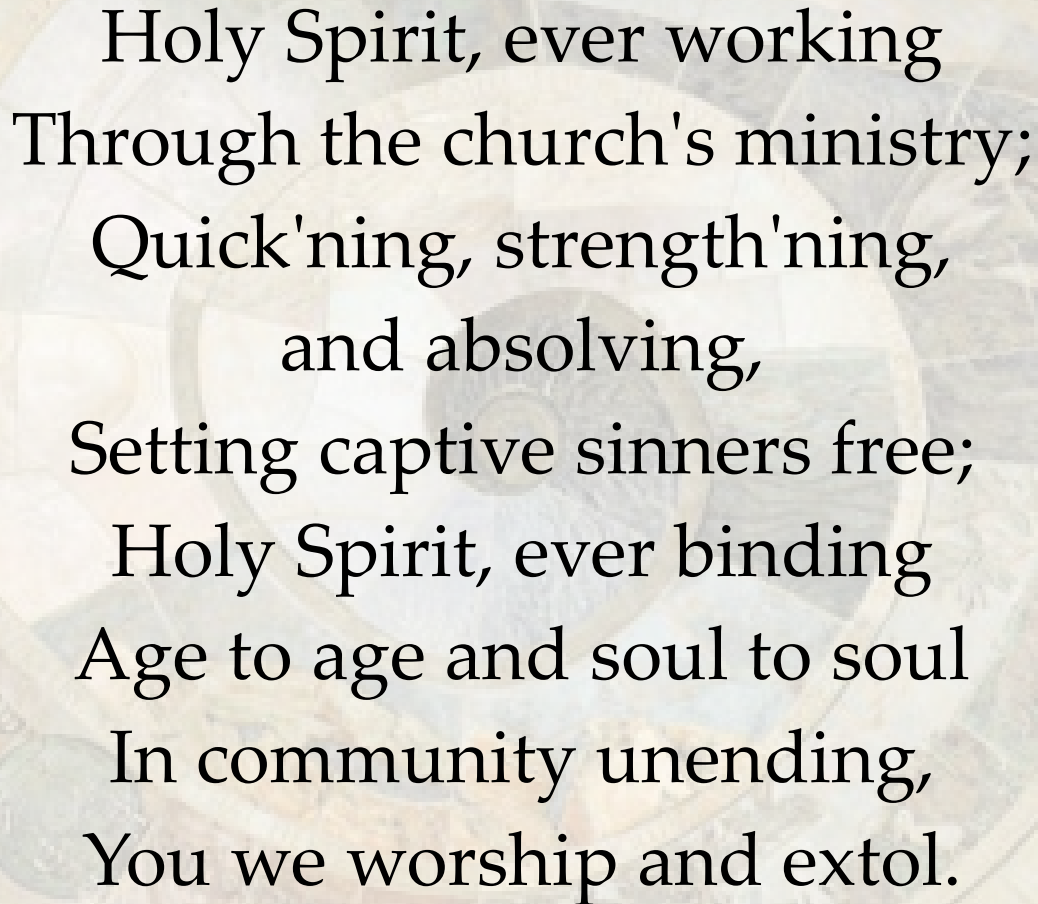
*Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*

NCH #59

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling  
In the holiest realms of light;  
Holy Spirit, ever brooding  
O'er a world of gloom and night;  
Holy Spirit, ever raising  
Earthbound souls to glory high;  
Living, life-imparting Spirit,  
You we praise and magnify.



Holy Spirit, ever living  
On the church the breath of life;  
Holy Spirit, ever striving  
Through your people's ceaseless strife;  
Holy Spirit, ever forming  
In the church the mind of Christ;  
In our worship we will praise you  
For your fruit and gifts unpriced.



Holy Spirit, ever working  
Through the church's ministry;  
Quick'ning, strength'ning,  
and absolving,  
Setting captive sinners free;  
Holy Spirit, ever binding  
Age to age and soul to soul  
In community unending,  
You we worship and extol.

A circular mosaic floor, likely from an ancient Roman or Byzantine site. The floor features a central medallion surrounded by several concentric rings of mosaic tiles. The tiles are arranged in a grid pattern, with some tiles containing small figures or symbols. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of earthy tones like beige, brown, and grey. The text "Passing the Peace" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Passing the Peace



# Welcome, Greetings and Key Announcements!

*(Be sure to check your bulletin for special announcements – and KEEP it as a reference)*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

# Children's Time



Tiempo de los niños



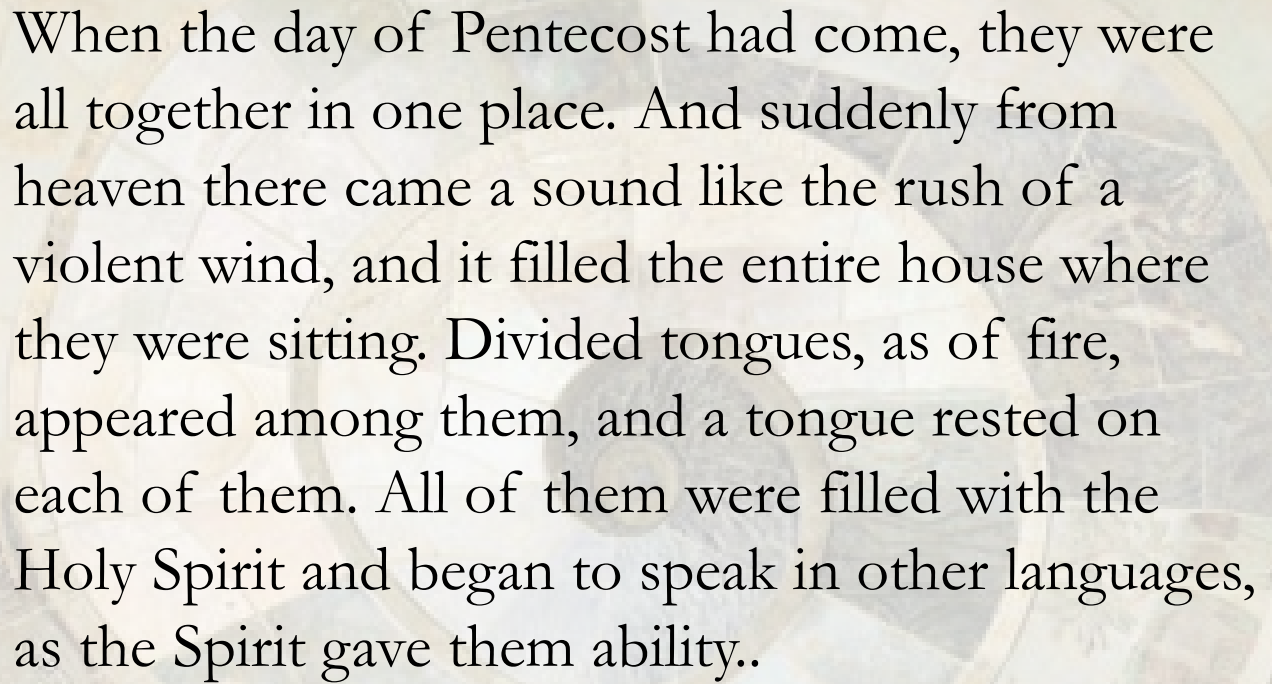
## **Gloria (#759, NCH)**

Glory to the Creator  
the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One  
As it was in the beginning  
Is now and ever shall be,  
World without end, Amen, Amen



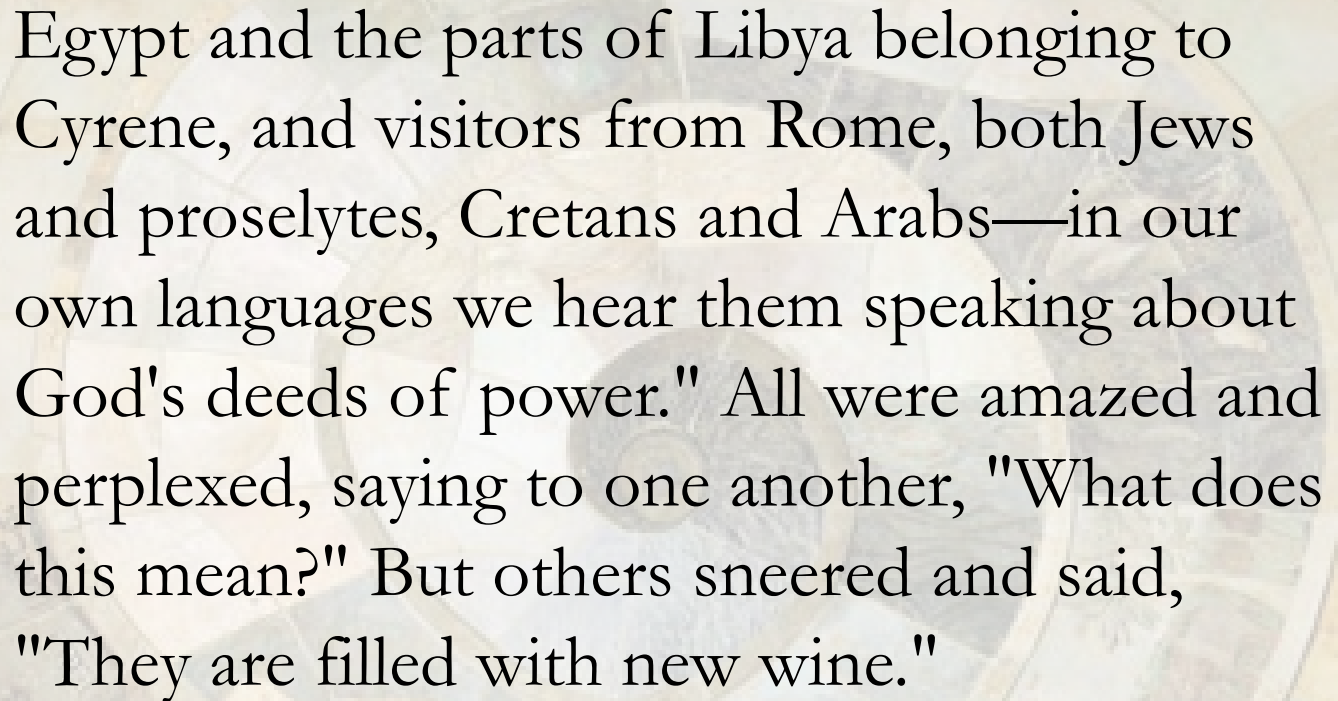
# **New Testament Reading**

**Acts 2:1-21**



When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability..

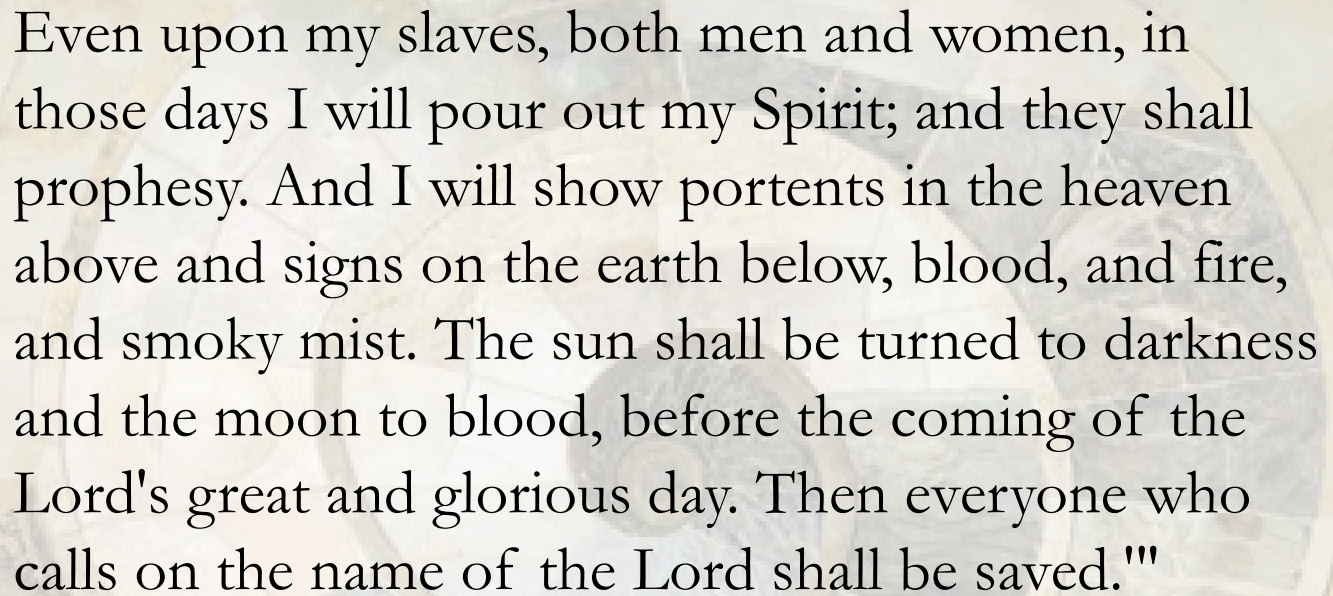
Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,



Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: '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.



The background of the image is a large, circular mosaic. In the center, there is a figure, possibly a religious or historical figure, surrounded by a ring of text. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles in shades of blue, gold, and brown. The overall appearance is that of an ancient or classical artwork.

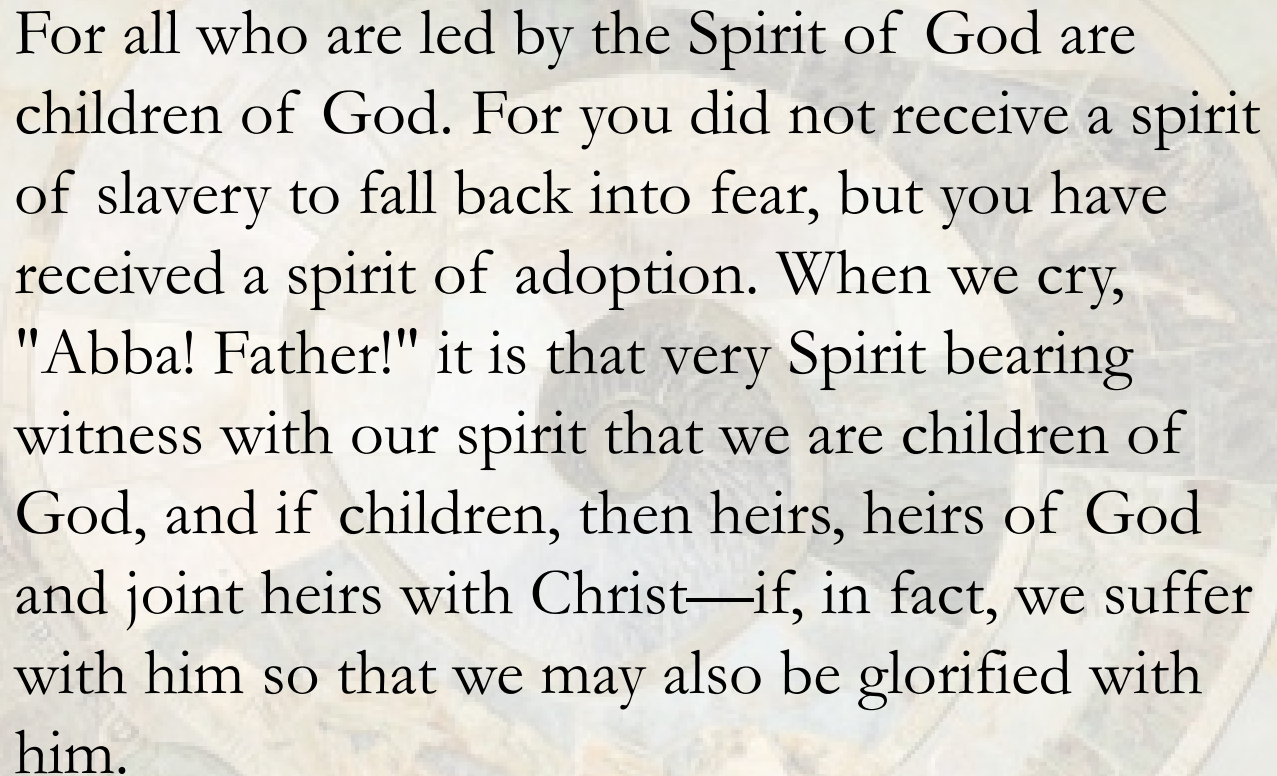
Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."



# Reading

**Romans 8:14-17**

Sandy Gunn



For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

A circular mosaic floor, likely from an ancient church or synagogue. The central part is a large circle containing a smaller circle. The space between these circles is filled with a grid of squares, each containing a different scene or figure. The outermost ring of the mosaic also features various figures and scenes. The colors are muted, with shades of brown, tan, and grey.

# **Gospel Reading**

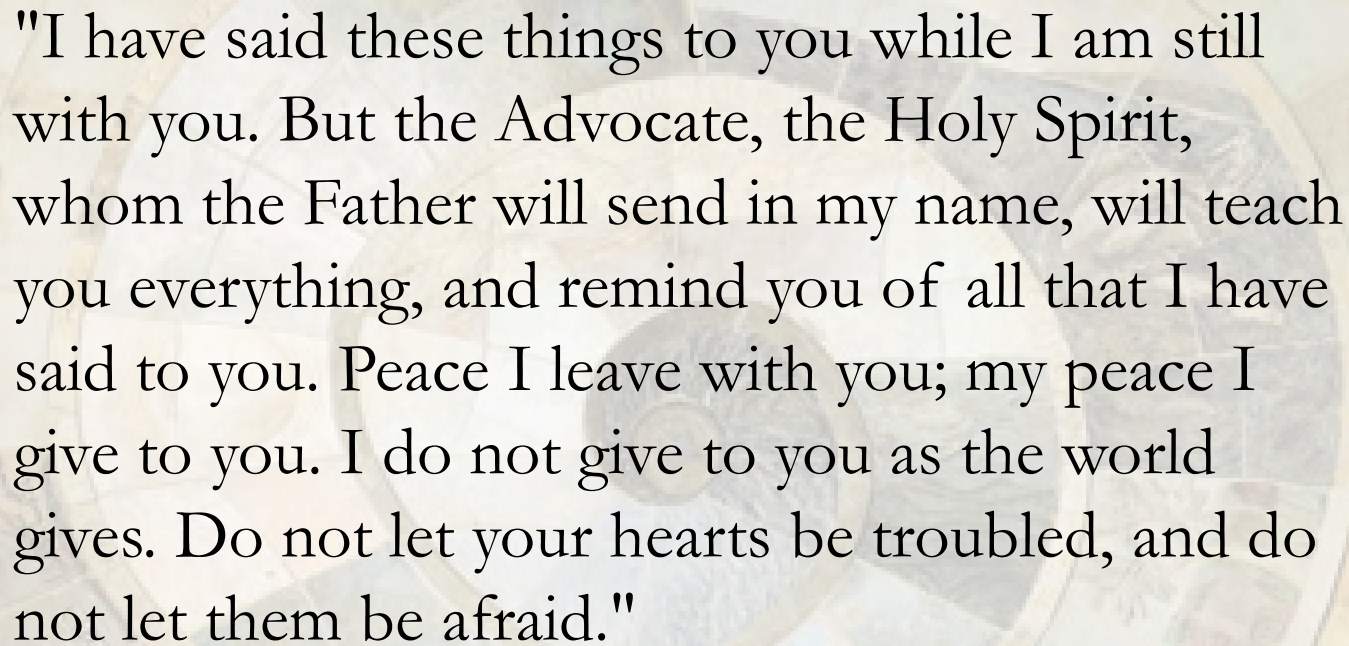
**John 14:8-17 [25-27]**

**Dr. Mann**

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.



"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."



**Sermon:  
“Earth Wind and Fire”  
Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

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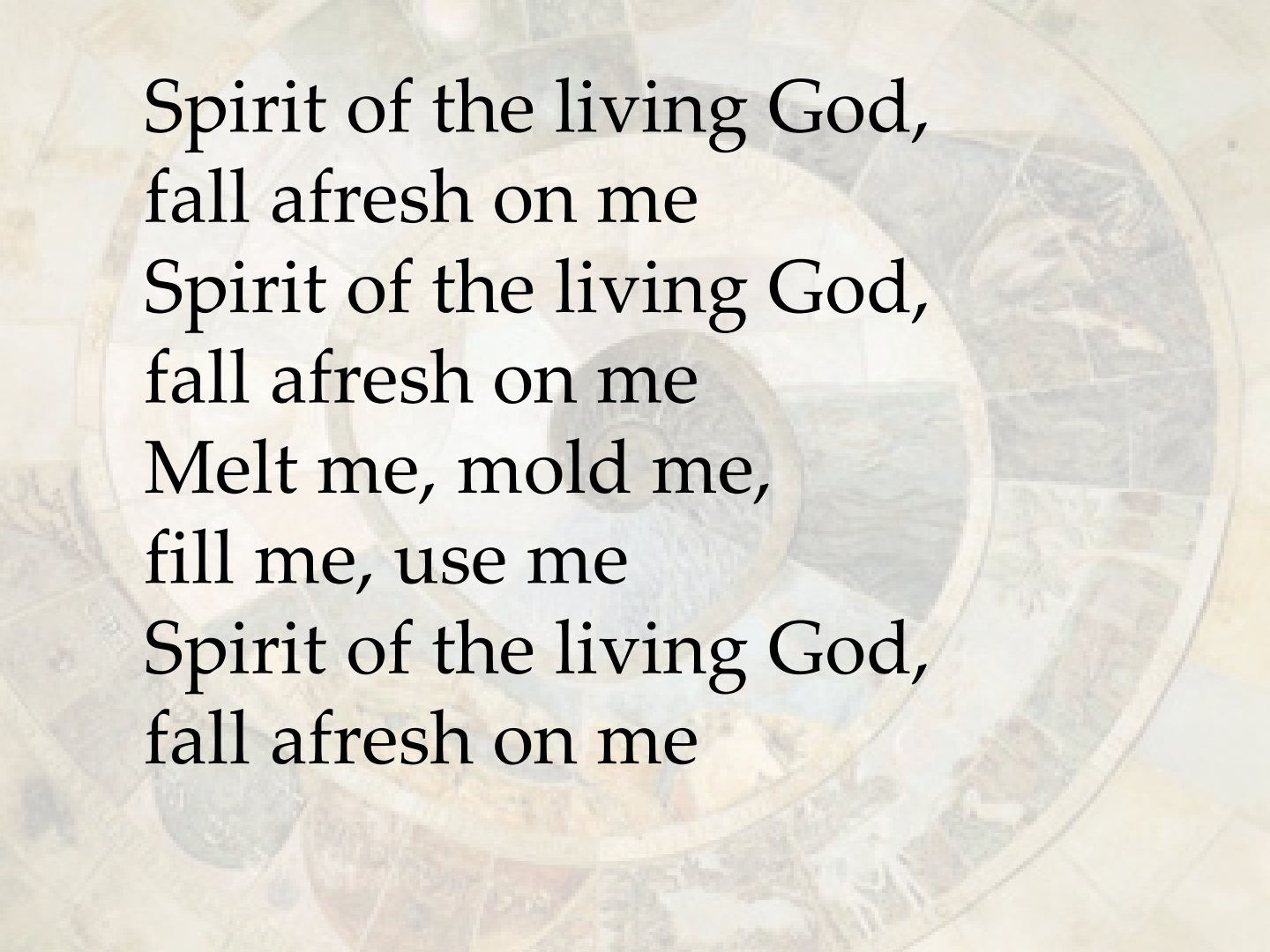




Responding Hymn

*Spirit of the Living God*

NCH #283

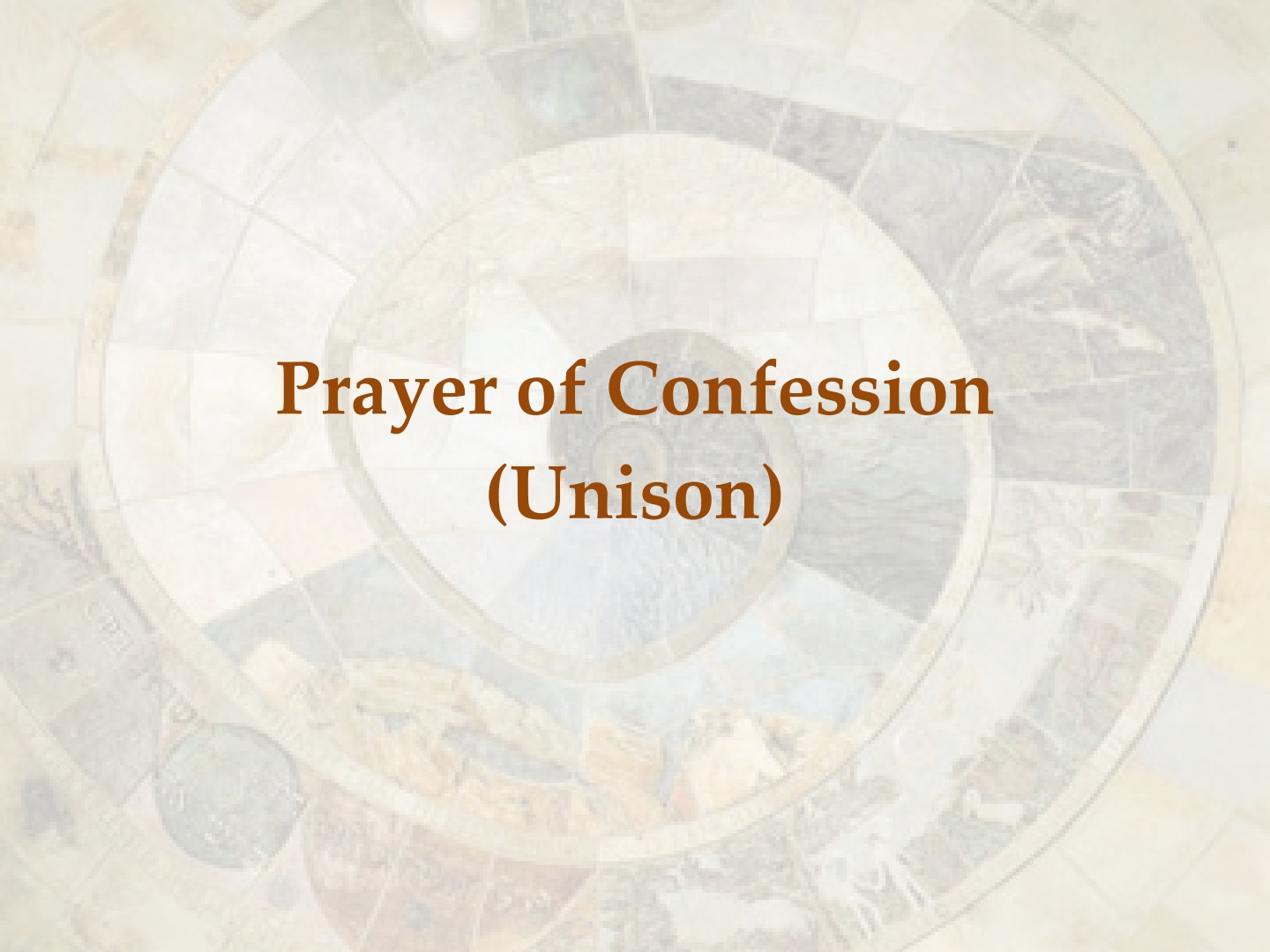


Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me

Melt me, mold me,  
fill me, use me

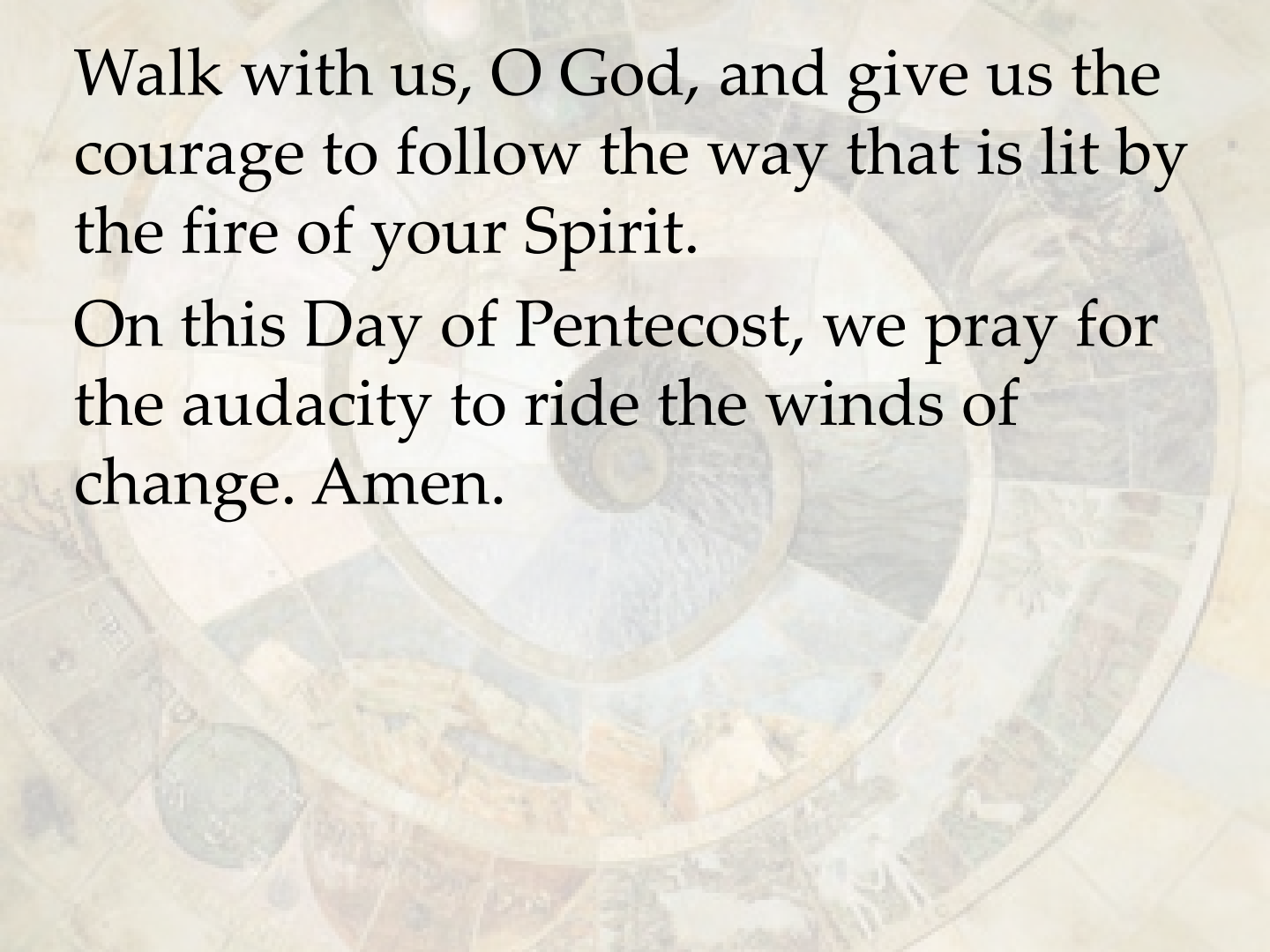
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me

A circular mosaic floor with a central spiral design, overlaid with a semi-transparent circular frame. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles in shades of beige, grey, and brown, arranged in concentric circles and radial patterns. The central spiral is a prominent feature, drawing the eye towards the center. The overall appearance is that of an ancient or historical floor, possibly in a church or public building.

**Prayer of Confession  
(Unison)**

Holy Spirit, we're not sure we're ready for your awesome power to blow through our lives; we're grown comfortable with our familiar habits and our bland routines; we're afraid to give up our waking slumber and face the truth that we do not truly live.

When we cling to our ways and the safety of familiar paths, wake us up, shake us up, heat us up, and breathe your life into us.

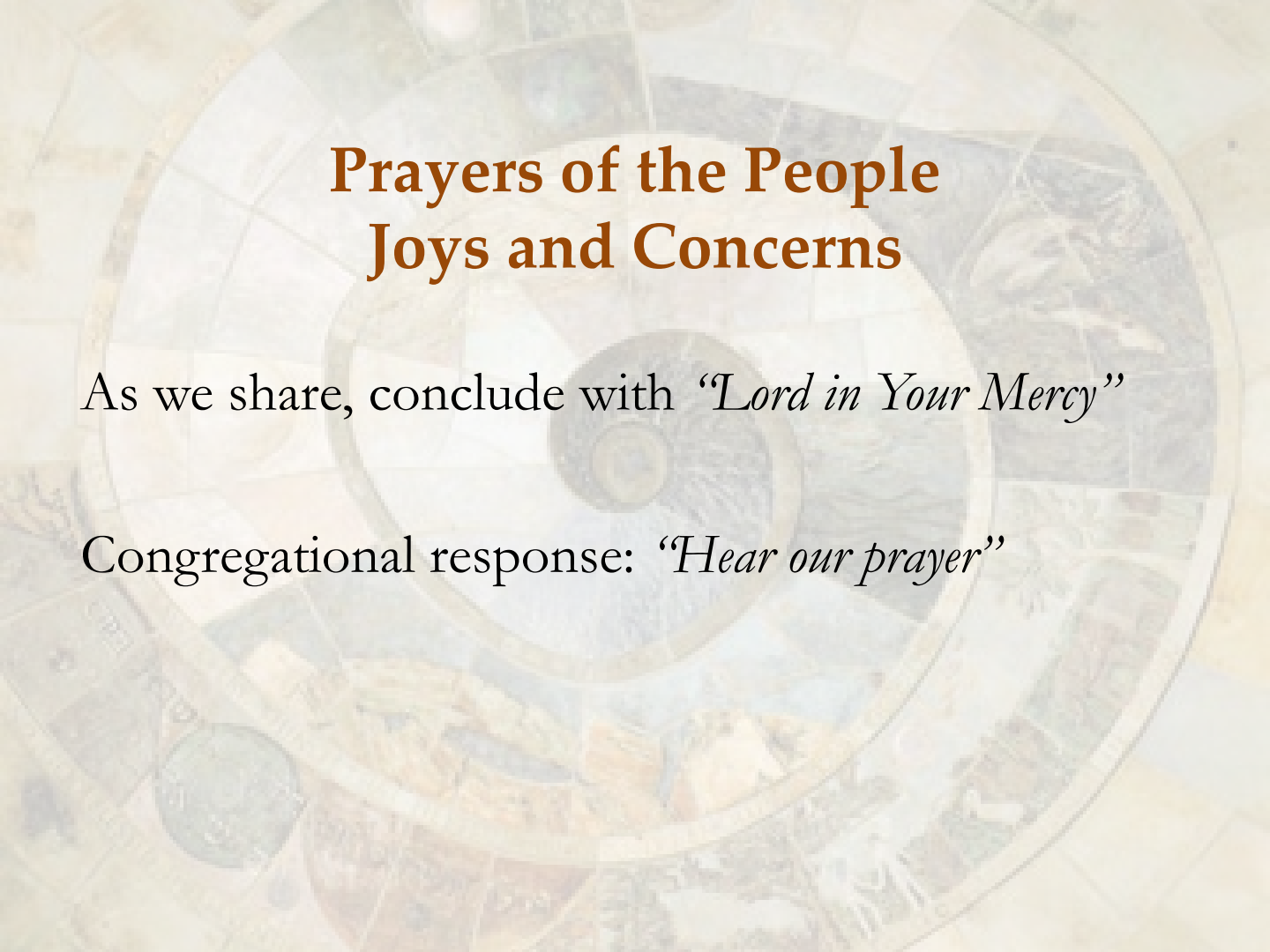
The background is a large, circular mosaic. In the center, there is a figure, possibly a saint or a religious figure, surrounded by a circular border. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles in shades of blue, gold, and brown. The overall tone is soft and historical.

Walk with us, O God, and give us the  
courage to follow the way that is lit by  
the fire of your Spirit.

On this Day of Pentecost, we pray for  
the audacity to ride the winds of  
change. Amen.

A circular mosaic floor with a central spiral design, overlaid with a semi-transparent circular frame. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles in shades of beige, grey, and brown. The spiral starts from a central point and winds outwards. The text "Words of Assurance" is centered over the image in a bold, brown, serif font.

# **Words of Assurance**



# Prayers of the People Joys and Concerns

As we share, conclude with *“Lord in Your Mercy”*

Congregational response: *“Hear our prayer”*

## *The Lords Prayer*

Our Father, Who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever and ever. Amen



# **Invitation to the Offering**

## **(Unison Prayer)**

Pentecost God,  
take our hearts and set them on fire.  
Take our lives and transform them.  
Take our church and resurrect it  
with your life-giving Spirit.  
Take our gifts and use them for the  
fulfillment of your vision  
of peace and unity. Amen.

The background is a circular mosaic. In the center, there is a figure, possibly a religious icon, surrounded by a circular border. The mosaic is composed of various colored tiles in shades of blue, green, and brown. The text is overlaid on this background.

# Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above the heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost  
Amen



# Offertory

Offertory Music  
Sandy Gunn

# Prayer of Dedication

O God, receive these gifts,  
bless them and multiply them,  
that they may strengthen  
and unify the work of your Church here  
and around the Earth you love.

In Jesus' name we pray:

Amen.



*Singing into Mission*

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

*NCH 282*

*Every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.*

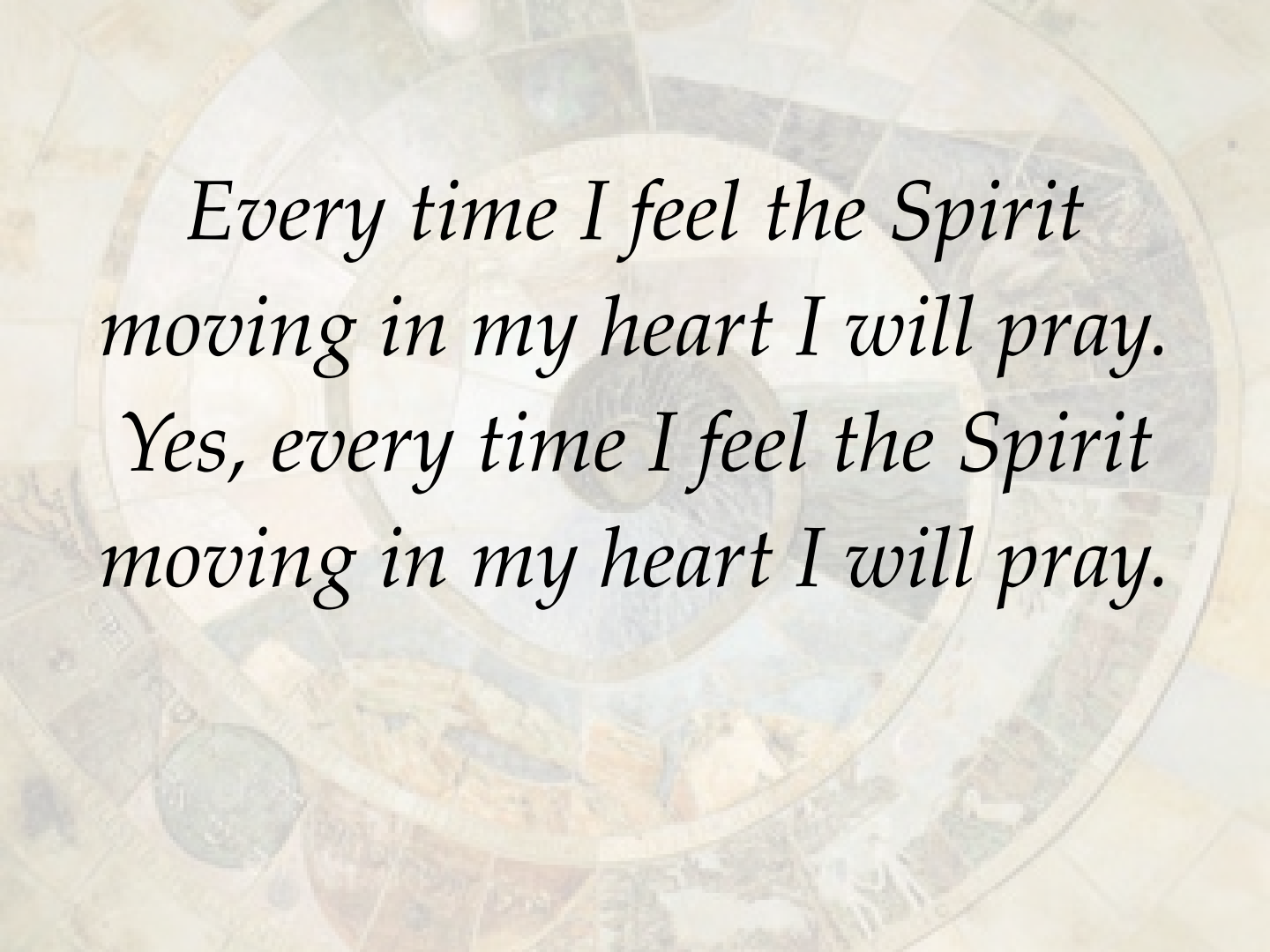
*Yes, every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.*

Upon the mountain my God spoke,  
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me; it looked so fine,  
I asked my God if all were mine.

*Every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.*

*Yes, every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.*

Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,  
it chills the body, but not the soul.  
There's only one train on this track;  
it runs to heaven, then right back.



*Every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.*



## **Benediction – Unison**

The God who made this amazing universe  
is creating us anew every day.

Jesus Christ, the resurrected One,  
offers peace that never dies.

The Holy Spirit is setting our hearts on fire—  
right here, right now.

Go in peace, and be transformed,  
that we may change the world. Amen.

# Postlude

Carillon

## **BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.* Care for the poor.

Forgive often. *Reject racism.*

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*