
Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.

Text highlighted in this way will have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way is a reminder for Andrew during delivery.



Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the Holy Spirit. We review the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible and connect this history with the opportunity to live in the Spirit today.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because, at times, the Holy Spirit has been ignored in the life of the church. An important step to living a life filled with the Spirit of God is to know more about the Holy Spirit.

What is the good news?

The good news is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is no longer just for particular people, times or tasks; it's for everyone.

What are the next action steps?

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is part of a series focused on the Apostles' Creed. It is adapted from Alpha Talk 8 - Who is the Holy Spirit by Nicky Gumbel.

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Make Disciples

3rd Sunday in Lent (Purple)

March 19, 2017

Believe - Exploring the Apostles' Creed - Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-4

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,197

Sermon Books of the Bible

- Acts
- Ezekiel
- Genesis
- Jeremiah
- John
- Judges
- Luke

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, Lent, 40Days, Believe, ApostlesCreed, HolySpirit, life, Jesus

Sermon Audio

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship

Sermon Video



Introduction	6
Acts 2:1-4, CEB	
Acts 2:1-4, NRSV	
Response to Scripture	
Sermon Starter Video	
Wary of the Holy Ghost	7
Supernaturally good	
Believe Worship Series	
Today's Phrase of the Apostles' Creed	
Holy Spirit Brings New Life	7
Creation of the World	
Key Scripture - Genesis 1:1-2	
New Life for Christians	
See New Life in People	
See New Life in Churches	
Transition	
People, Times and Tasks	8
Gideon	
Key Scripture - Judges 6:14-15	
Israel Needs a Leader	
Gideon's Excuse	
God's Response	
Key Scripture - Judges 6:34	
Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament	
Transition	
Holy Spirit is God's Promise	9
God's Promise	
Key Scripture - Jeremiah 31:33-34	
Law on Stone	
Laws could be a Blessing	

Laws turn out to be a Burden

Law on Hearts

Personal Example: Attitude Toward your Job

School Specialty Supply

First UMC El Dorado

Keep the Rules because You Love It

How can the Promise be Fulfilled?

Key Scripture - Ezekiel 36:26-27

Transition

Holy Spirit and Jesus

11

John the Baptist connects the Holy Spirit with Jesus

Key Scripture - Luke 3:16

Greek - Baptize

Example: Heart Like a Sponge

Dry Sponge

Wet Sponge

Jesus Predicts the Holy Spirit's Presence

Key Scripture - John 7:37-39

Spiritual Thirst

Living Water

Water symbolizes life

Holy Spirit Brings Life

Transition

Coming of the Holy Spirit

13

Jesus' Promise of the Holy Spirit

Key Scripture - Acts 1:4-5, 8

Disciples Wait

Conclusion

14

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

3rd Sunday in Lent (Purple)

March 19, 2017

Believe - Exploring the Apostles' Creed - Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-4

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,197

The Apostles' Creed

Introduction

Acts 2:1-4, CEB

¹When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Acts 2:1-4, NRSV

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.

Response to Scripture

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.



Wary of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Spirit is the least talked about person of the Holy Trinity - God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Maybe something to do with the fact that in some versions of the Bible the name that the Holy Spirit is given is the Holy Ghost, and 'Ghost' sounds kind of a little bit creepy, a bit eerie — almost sort of something almost like supernatural evil.

Supernaturally good

Of course, God is supernatural good. The Holy Spirit is supernatural good. We need the supernatural. But I think because of the slightly different translation, people may be a little bit, well, a little bit wary.

*One woman said to her preacher,
Preacher, we don't want anything supernatural happening in this church!*

Believe Worship Series

During this series we are taking a closer look at these beliefs and why they matter through the words of the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed is an ancient Christian statement of faith whose words or ideas come from the scriptures.

We are considering one topic each week and, along the way, trying to memorize the Apostles' Creed before Easter.

Today's Phrase of the Apostles' Creed

Today, we consider the words of the creed: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

While there is much to be said about the Holy Spirit, we are going to focus on the question: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Pause

Holy Spirit Brings New Life

Creation of the World

The Holy Spirit has been around literally since the creation of the world. And that is where we begin today.

Key Scripture - Genesis 1:1-2

The Holy Spirit was involved in creation and we begin with Genesis 1, verse 1 and 2:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”¹

Like a bird hovering over her nest, waiting.
And the Spirit of God was about to bring something new into being.

New Life for Christians

The Holy Spirit creates all things, yet has a special relationship with those who are Christians, those who have given their lives to Christ. The Holy Spirit comes to live within them, to breathe within them the breath of life.

See New Life in People

Sometimes you can almost see it on people's faces. You can see almost — sometimes there's almost like a deadness in people's eyes, and then the Spirit of God comes to live within them and you can see it's like life comes into the person's face, their expression, almost a physical expression.

See New Life in Churches

The same with churches.
Some churches seem to be very dry and dusty, and then the Spirit comes, and there is new life.

Transition

The Holy Spirit brings new life.

Pause

People, Times and Tasks

As we look throughout the scriptures, we find that the Holy Spirit comes on particular people at particular times for particular tasks.

Gideon

Key Scripture - Judges 6:14-15

You may remember the story of Gideon in Judges 6:14-15:

“Then the Lord turned to him and said, “You have strength, so go and rescue Israel from the power of Midian. Am I not personally sending you?”

But again Gideon said to him, “With all due respect, my Lord, how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I'm the youngest in my household.”²

Israel Needs a Leader

The people of Israel had been overrun by the Midianites.

¹ Genesis 1:1-2, NIV

² Judges 6:14-15, CEB.

The country was in desperate need and God sends Gideon to be a leader.

Gideon's Excuse

Gideon says, "No way, Lord! You've picked the wrong person! I can never do this. My clan is the least powerful and I am the youngest in my family."

Gideon felt inadequate.

He didn't have what he needed to succeed.

God's Response

And God says to him, 'No, I want you to go.

I want you to go and set the people free.'

Now, how can he do that?

Key Scripture - Judges 6:34

We find the answer in Judges 6:34:

"Then the Lord's spirit came over Gideon, and he sounded the horn and summoned the Abiezrites to follow him."³

'Then the Lord's spirit came over Gideon' —

That is what turned him into a great leader.

This is the amazing thing about the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon a man or a woman, we can be transformed.

Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament

There are others in the Old Testament who we read of being filled with the Holy Spirit:

- In Exodus, the Holy Spirit fills Bezalel for artistic work.
- In Judges, Samson is filled with power and strength. He is able to break free from the chains that bind him.
- The Holy Spirit comes on Isaiah for prophecy and he speaks the words that are recorded as the basis for Jesus' very first sermon

Transition

The Holy Spirit comes on particular people at particular times for particular tasks.

Pause

Holy Spirit is God's Promise

God's Promise

Throughout the Old Testament there is a rising sense of anticipation: that God is going to do something even more amazing.

This is God's promise.

In one sense you could sum up the Old Testament in one word: 'promise.'

³ Judges 6:34, CEB.

So what exactly is this promise?

Key Scripture - Jeremiah 31:33-34

Let's look at Jeremiah 31:33-34:

"No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins."⁴

Law on Stone

Laws could be a Blessing

Under the old covenant, the Old Testament, the people of God were given the law. And the law was written on tablets of stone. And they looked at these laws and they said, 'Wow, they're great laws — don't kill, don't steal, don't commit adultery, don't covet, don't want things that belong to somebody else.' They said, 'These are great laws. If we lived like this, we'd have a great society.'

Laws turn out to be a Burden

And then they tried to live like that, and they found they couldn't. And so the law, instead of becoming a blessing, it was just this great burden on them — they were trying desperately to keep it, but they were failing constantly.

Law on Hearts

And God says: 'I'm going to do something new.'

This is my promise.

Instead of the law being outside — something that you are trying to keep but fail,' he said, 'I'm going to put it inside, so that you really want to do it, it comes from your hearts.'

Personal Example: Attitude Toward your Job

It's a bit like different attitudes to jobs.

Some people have jobs that they hate.

Some people have jobs that they love.

In my life, I've had both.

you have a different attitude depending on which it is.

School Specialty Supply

One of the jobs I had in college was working at a school supplies warehouse. My parents were living in Salina and I was home from Pittsburg State University. I worked second shift, so would come in during the afternoon and leave in the middle of the night.

I worked in the shipping department. Our job was to take boxes off the line — a roller conveyor belt — and take them to the correct pallet that was being shipped out to a

⁴ Jeremiah 31:33-34, CEB.

school somewhere in Kansas. When the order was done, you would count them to make sure that none were missing and take them to a wrapping machine. Then, they went on a truck to be shipped out the next day.

It was great, except there was really no incentive.

Every night, when we left, the line was clear.

Every day, when we arrived, the line was full.

It seemed pointless.

I didn't think that the first shift was doing anything.

It paid pretty good money, but I really didn't like it much.

First UMC El Dorado

Now I'm very blessed — I have a job that I love! Of course there is a bit of a contract or job description in the Book of Discipline and I have probably kept all the rules, but it's not because I want to keep the contract — it's because I love what I do.

Keep the Rules because You Love It

And God says, 'It's going to be like that. You're not going to keep the rules because you have to keep the rules; it's because you love it, because this comes from your heart. I'm going to put my law on the inside.'

How can the Promise be Fulfilled?

How does God put the law inside us?

How can God's promise be fulfilled?

Key Scripture - Ezekiel 36:26-27

In Ezekiel 36:26-27, God says this:

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove your stony heart from your body and replace it with a living one, and I will give you my spirit so that you may walk according to my regulations and carefully observe my case laws."⁵

That's how God does it — by the Holy Spirit coming to live within us.

Pause

Transition

The Holy Spirit is God's promise.

Yet this promise remained unfulfilled.

The people were waiting.

And they waited and they waited.

They waited for hundreds of years!

Holy Spirit and Jesus

And then, God's promise is fulfilled with the birth of Jesus.

⁵ Ezekiel 36:26-27, CEB.

Everyone connected with the birth of Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit.

- John the Baptist
- Mary
- Elizabeth
- Zechariah

Each one filled with the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist connects the Holy Spirit with Jesus

John the Baptist is the first person to make this link between the promise and Jesus.

Key Scripture - Luke 3:16

Hear these words from Luke 3:16:

“John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”⁶

Greek - Baptize

In the secular Greek, the word ‘baptize’ meant ‘to overwhelm, to immerse, to plunge, to drench’.

It was the word that was used if a ship sunk — it was baptized, it was overwhelmed, water everywhere, inside.

And that’s what the Spirit wants to do — to drench us, overwhelm us, fill us.

Example: Heart Like a Sponge

Dry Sponge

Sometimes, I think — this is certainly true of my heart — I become like a dry sponge. You know one of those real sponges, which when it’s very dry, even when you put it in the water it doesn’t absorb any water, because it’s so hard and crusty on the outside. Sometimes my heart becomes like that.

Wet Sponge

But then as you put that sponge into water, the edges begin to soften. And once the edges have softened, then that sponge can absorb so much water. And when you take it out of the water, it is literally pouring out water. And that’s how we’re meant to be — full of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Predicts the Holy Spirit’s Presence

Key Scripture - John 7:37-39

And then Jesus predicts the coming of the Spirit — John 7:37-39:

“On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, “All who are thirsty should come to me! All who believe in me should drink! As the scriptures said concerning me, Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.”

⁶ Luke 3:16, CEB.

Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn't experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn't yet been glorified."⁷

Spiritual Thirst

There's a thirst, isn't there, in every human heart — not just a physical thirst. Of course we have a physical thirst that can be satisfied by drinking water; but we also have a spiritual thirst, which can't be satisfied by physical drinks — or even material things.

It's a spiritual thirst.

And Jesus says: "All who are thirsty should come to me! All who believe in me should drink! As the scriptures said concerning me, Rivers of living water will flow out from within him."

Living Water

Literally, it's out of their innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

He says, 'Not only will I satisfy your spiritual thirst, but then you will become a source of blessing, a source of life.'

Water symbolizes life

Water, of course, in that context there — this is a society living on the edge of the desert. They knew that they were reliant on water for plant life, animal life, every kind of life! And water symbolizes life.

Holy Spirit Brings Life

Jesus is saying the Holy Spirit brings life.

It means when we're filled with the Spirit, then the life of the Spirit flows through us to other people, and other people are able to come and to drink.

Transition

Jesus and the Holy Spirit bring life.

Pause

Coming of the Holy Spirit

Jesus' Promise of the Holy Spirit

Jesus is crucified, died and raised again.

Key Scripture - Acts 1:4-5, 8

After he is raised from the dead, he shares these words with the disciples in Acts 1:4-5, 8

⁷ John 7:37-39, CEB.

“While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, “This is what you heard from me: “John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”⁸

“Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”⁹

Disciples Wait

Then, Jesus ascended, and still the promise had not been fulfilled.
And the disciples waited.

Pause

Conclusion

Key Scripture - Acts 2:1-6, 12-18, 37-39

Finally, we read in Acts 2:

“When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages.”¹⁰

“They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”¹¹

“When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

⁸ Acts 1:4-5, CEB.

⁹ Acts 1:8, CEB.

¹⁰ Acts 2:1-6, CEB.

¹¹ Acts 2:12-18, CEB.

Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites."¹²

Good News

The good news is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is no longer just for particular people, times or tasks; it's for everyone.

It's for you... and you... and you... and you...

Call to Action

God invites you to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to quench your spiritual thirst and to receive new life.

This is what we believe about the Holy Spirit.

Pause

Invitation

Will you please stand, as you are able, and say the Apostles' Creed with me?

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in
God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ
his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead,
and buried;

the third day he rose
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the

¹² Acts 2:37-39, CEB.

right hand of
God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.