



24 MAY 2026



Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Church next Sunday

Next Sunday we will be having breakfast church and also celebrating holy communion.

Lectionary Readings

This week 24 May 2026 (Pentecost)

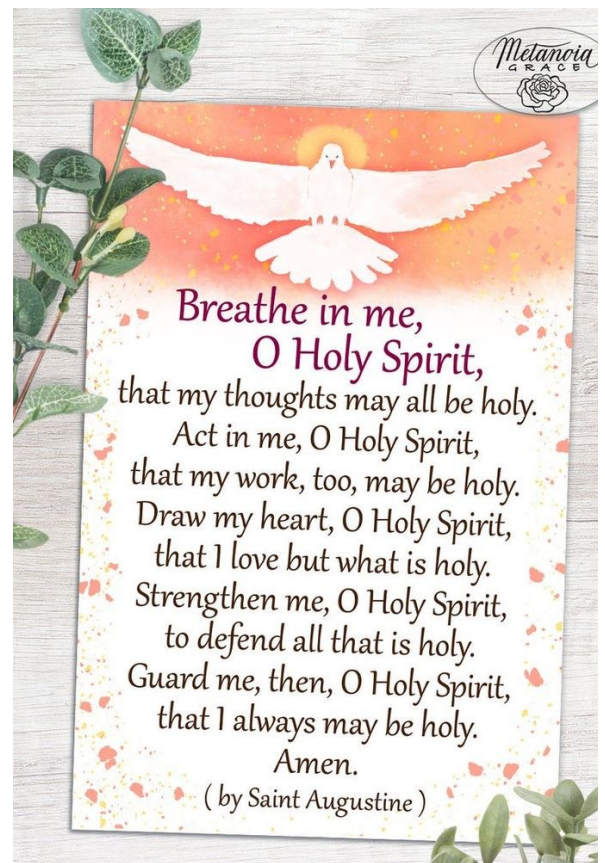
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Next week 31 May 2026 (Trinity Sunday)

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

COME
HOLY SPIRIT
FILL THE HEARTS
OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN THEM
THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT
AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED
AND YOU SHALL RENEW
THE FACE OF THE
EARTH.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, AMEN.





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Rev Gail's Message

For our exploration of how the Bible came to be this week I am using some of the reflections from Priest and Theologian Richard Rohr. The following reflections are taken from a longer article entitled *What do we do with the Bible?* The full article can be found here: <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/what-do-we-do-with-the-bible-2019-01-06/>

"For all its inspiration, for all the lives it has changed, the Bible is undeniably problematic. Put in the hands of egocentric, unloving, or power-hungry people or those who have never learned how to read spiritually inspired literature, it is almost always a disaster. History has demonstrated this, century after century, so this is not an unwarranted, disrespectful, or biased conclusion. The burning of heretics, the Crusades, slavery, apartheid, homophobia, and the genocide and oppression of native peoples were all justified through the selective use of Scripture quotes. So, what are we supposed to do with the Bible?"

The Christian's goal is to be transformed by the renewing of our mind into the mind of Christ (see Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:16; and Philippians 2:5). That is why I try to read the Bible the way Jesus did, following Jesus' *hermeneutic* (a method of interpreting sacred texts).

The Bible is an anthology of many books. It is a record of *people's experience of God's self-revelation*. It is an account of our very human experience of the divine intrusion into history. The book did not fall from heaven in a pretty package. It was written by people trying to listen to God. I believe that the Spirit was guiding the listening and writing process. We must also know that humans always see "through a glass darkly ... and all knowledge is imperfect" (1 Corinthians 13:12). *Prayer and patience surrounding such human words will keep us humble and searching for the true Living Word, the person of Jesus*, which is how the Spirit best teaches (1 Corinthians 2:10,13)—through living exemplars. This is surely what it means to know "contemplatively."

When history finally gets to the Risen Jesus, there is nothing to be afraid of in God. Jesus' very breath is identified with forgiveness and the divine *Shalom* (see John 20:20-23). If the Risen Jesus is the full and trustworthy unveiling of the nature of God, then we live in a safe and love-filled universe. It is not that God has changed, or that the Hebrew God is a different God than the God of Jesus; it is that we are growing up as we move through the text and deepen our experience. Stay with the Bible and with your inner life with God and your capacity for God will increase."

Stay with the Bible, good advice indeed. As you read the back of this week's Grapevine ask yourself have I also spent time reading my Bible today? See me, Gail, if you would like to borrow a Bible study guide to assist you to read and understand the scriptures or if you would like to join one of our Bible Study Groups. Happy Reading!