**Bearing Fruit – May 23, 2021**

**Pentecost on Our Doorstep**

In the opening of the gospel of Acts we are told that the disciples would receive the power of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost we celebrate that gift, the Holy Spirit, given to Christ’s church. The Holy Spirit helps us to fulfill the mandate to go to all the world and share the message of Christ’s love and grace. Now, in our time, the world has come to us right here in Glen Ellyn.

Our introit today is *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*, offered by the children’s choir of the Rawang Community Church of Chicago. As you watch the video of our introit you may notice that this choir uses our old blue hymnal, a gift from Southminster to their church. The Rawang are an ethnic group of Kachin state in northern Myanmar. There are various Christian faith communities there, many of which have had to flee their homes during recent periods of civil war. Rawang refugees have sought temporary refuge in Malaysia, hiding in the shadows to avoid police harassment and arrest. The Rawang Community Church (RCC) was quietly founded over five years ago in Kuala Lumpur as many of its members sought asylum in the U.S. Now the RCC is about equally split between Kuala Lumpur and DuPage County, where they worship in northern Glen Ellyn. Their dream is to purchase a church building and reunite their church family here in Chicagoland. Elder Steve Henkels became friends with this congregation through his work with World Relief. Our pastor is delighted that Steve is willing to share the sermon with her today as he reports on one aspect of his ministry through volunteering for World Relief.

For some time now the Mission Ministry had been considering making World Relief one of Southminster’s official ministries, and now it is. *World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization that brings sustainable solutions to the world’s greatest problems – disasters, extreme poverty, violence, oppression, and mass displacement. We partner with local churches and community leaders in the U.S. and abroad to bring hope, healing and transformation to the most vulnerable.* Yes, this is World Relief’s mission statement, and we are gratified to be part of it.

Our offertory is a gift from our Sister Church in Guanabacoa, Cuba, led by Odilaisy Suarez Hernandez, the wife of the pastor. The title is *The Spirit of God*. During the offertory you will see pictures of some of the people from our sister church. In addition, today’s slideshow combines people of our congregation and their congregation holding lights. The lights represent the light of the Holy Spirit, which not only powers the church worldwide but unites the people of God’s church around the world and through the ages. The Holy Spirit enables us to bear the fruit of God’s Love.

***The Spirit of God***

The Spirit of God is in this place.
The Spirit of God moves in this place.
Is here to comfort,
is here to liberate,
is here to guide; the Spirit of God is here.

Move in me!
Move in me!
Take my mind and my heart;
fill my life with your love.
Move in me,
God the Spirit, Move in me.

***El Espíritu de Dios***El Espíritu de Dios está en este lugar.
El Espíritu de Dios se mueve en este lugar.
Está aquí para consolar,
Está aquí para liberar,
Está aquí para guíar el Espíritu de Dios está aquí.

Muévete en mí,
Muévete en mí.
Toma mi mente y mi corazón,
Llena mi vida de tu amor.
Muévete en mí,
Dios Espíritu muévete en mí.