

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
June 5, 2022 – Pentecost & Communion

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 5

Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Hymn: MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit*

1. Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

2. Move with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

3. Sing with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Inviting Holy Light

The dawn of a new day. A new journey. In these pandemic times, I suspect that you and I have had to learn again how to lean into hope, rather than expecting the usual, the hum drum.

Dawn, a new day. Who knows what today will bring. May we open our hearts and our minds in worship to what the Holy Spirit is going to show us today. Breathe in this new day, my friends. Breathe in... Breathe out. We invite the dawn of Christ's Love. *[Dave lights candle]*

Hymn: VU 376 *Spirit of the Living God, vs. 2*

2. Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Nurturing Safe Space

Everyone who is seeking, who wants to follow Jesus - for healing, hope, inspiration, or just looking for community - all are welcome. We God's love, the neighbourly love that Jesus taught and modelled, is grounded deeply in diversity.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We as people of faith inherit a legacy, a history of hurt, but also journey into new chapters of healing and reconciliation. Today, here we are worshipping on the ancestral land the Wahnapiatae First Nation and of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, this land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, and never honoured by Canada. We live, work, play, and pray on the Treaty lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us and be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship here at St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury, worshippers in this sanctuary, but also a number of you joining online.

A special welcome today to Graham and Debby Laporte who will be leading the music in worship today, and thank you also to Sophia and Benjamin, our readers today.

Speaking of Graham, we want to thank him for his dedication to St. Andrew's these past few years. He came to this community of faith in 2017, drawn in by our former Director of Music, Robert Hall, to sing in the choir. During the pandemic, Graham has accepted a couple of invitations to become more involved in this church – particularly being willing to lead us along with his wonderful partner, Debby, in music during worship.

Graham, you are our Steward of the Month for May, and we are so blessed by your joy, your humour, your talent and passion. Here is a quote from Graham: *Being a member of St. Andrew's has been a wonderful decision and being able to offer my talents when the opportunity arises. One of my greatest joys has been to play the organ and piano for church services.*

Those at home, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our website or Facebook page, or email our office manager so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter called the NEWS. We also have a Social Hour on Zoom, every Sunday night at 7. As always, you can get your Zoom link to join that time of connecting by sending an email to Diane. That email address will be part of the credits after this worship.

For our online congregation, please gather your Communion elements and type the first name only in the comments box for Prayers of the Community.

Call to Worship

Come, Holy Spirit, with your language of wonder:
inspire us to mingle our words together,

to scatter the gospel of grace to all around us.

Come, Holy Spirit, with the music of your heart:
**so we can sing songs filled with memories,
and listen to the new carols sung by children.**

Come, Holy Spirit, to rattle the windows of our souls:
**to burst through the closed doors of our hearts,
and dance with us in the fire of renewal.**

Come, Holy Spirit, we pray!
Come, Holy Spirit, to us this day!

Opening Prayer

As we gather today, O God, we thank you for the spirit of your love. As a wind sweeps over the plains, through mountain passes and city streets, we ask that your spirit sweep through this place, refreshing us with the breeze of your grace. As the story of your presence has swept through the pages of our history, may we remember, and open ourselves to the breath of your Holy Spirit, which you offer to us all. Amen.

Scripture Readings (Sophia & Benjamin Le Grand)

Romans 8: 14 - 17 (Common English Bible – CEB)

Hear these words from Paul to the Roman church, you are God's daughters and sons, led by the God's Spirit.

All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father."

The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

Acts 1: 1 - 12 (Common English Bible translation)

This is the story of how what we know as church, followers of Jesus, began.

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. They were surprised and amazed, saying,

“Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Judea, and Asia, Phrygia and Egypt, and the regions of Libya; and visitors from Rome, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!”

Happy Birthday to us, not originally called the church or Christians, but those first followers of Jesus called themselves, The Way.

Let us pray. Send your Spirit, O God, to give birth to our faith. Send your Spirit, O God, that we may hear and speak and live anew. Send your Spirit, O God, for the renewal of your blessed creation. Send your Spirit, O God, to gather us – and then send your Spirit, O God, to send us forth in mission. Amen.

Message: “Remember what Love looks like”

Message will be posted on the website when it is available.

Questions for Reflection

- Can you see evidence of God’s Spirit at regular work in your life? What are the “signs” you see?
- Do you think that this same Spirit – unpredictable, bold, instilling wisdom and courage in God’s children – is at work here at St. Andrew’s? Where?

Anthem: *She Comes Sailing on the Wind*, vv. 1, 2, 5

Offering Moment

It is Pentecost, the inauguration, the baptism by fire and spirit of the movement of followers carrying on the work of Jesus. That moment... wonder, amazement, gratitude. It is from that place of gratitude that we reflect at this point in our worship, on what we are blessed with, and what we share from that blessing given us. Take a moment... think about your blessings, I will think of mine. Do those blessings flow? Of course they do. Thank you for all that you do.

Reflect on new possibilities to give of yourself, your time, your treasures to further God’s dream of an altogether new world, our systems of privilege, self-centredness, prejudice, hatred all turned upside down. Thank you for all that you have done, and all that you may do, inspired by that same Spirit, Fire, your call to change the world. Thank you.

Hymn: VU 467 *One Bread, One Body*, vv. 1, 2

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

2. Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Dedication Prayer

As you would transform our doubts and set us free from our fears, so we pray these gifts we offer might bring hope to those who despair, might feed those who hunger for hope as well as food, and might gather them into your community of wonder and joy. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

All are welcome at this table. No conditions, no rules, only that you want to follow Jesus. For you joining online, if you don't already have your elements – your cup of something and your bread to share with us – please hit the pause button and bring those over.

On this day of Pentecost,
may the Spirit dance with you!

May the Spirit dance with you as well!

May God's grace be poured into your hearts.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
to fill our hearts with love.**

May God's Word become your language of praise.

**Come, Holy Spirit, to teach us
new songs of thanksgiving.**

With a Word, you scattered chaos, God of wonder and joy,
creating everything imaginable, and those things only you could envision.

Pouring out your Breath of life,

dolphins frolicked in seas, dogs chased their tails in circles,
songbirds twittered to welcome the sunrise.

We were shaped in your image,

so that we might enjoy life with you in goodness.

The Bible tells the story of human pride, we tried to build a tower

to reach those temptations just out of our reach,

convinced they would make us happier than your joy.

Old men and women, young girls and boys,

those we call prophets and those we call meddlers,

came speaking your words of invitation

so we might return to you,

but we thought they were drunk,

or foolish, or ignorant.

You sent us your Child, who spoke of your whispers to his heart,

calling us to trust in your once again.

With those who dare to imagine your wonder,
with those who wonder what is going on,
we sing of the thanksgivings filling our hearts:
Holy, holy, holy are you, God who would gather us.
All creation joins in praising you this day.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who sends the Advocate to us.
Hosanna in the highest!

God of every moment, you are holy,
And Christ, your heart brings us new life, new hopes, new spirit.
As the Spirit rested upon him at baptism,
so he calls us Beloved;
as the Spirit accompanied him in the wilderness,
so he is with us in moments of struggles;
as the Spirit anointed him to serve,
so he gives us the words to challenge injustice,
the courage to resist easy choices,
the determination to be faithful in welcoming all people.
And as the Spirit strengthened him
to confront the fear of death and betrayal,
so the Spirit opens our closed hearts
to the great news that death is no more.

So we share that mystery we call faith:
Jesus gave his life, entering the silence of death;
Jesus was raised, as resurrection's new song was sung;
Jesus will come, and so we sing as long as we can,
with the breath of the Spirit filling us.

Prayers of Community

May we never forget the world, O God. May we never walk past what needs to be transformed,
but with your spirit may we become the change.

In conflict may we be peace.
In hunger may we be bread.
In prejudice may we be friendship.
In deceit may we be truth.
In community may we be justice.
In poverty may we be empowerment.
In silence may we be a voice.
In darkness may we be light.
In dogma may we be renewal.
In faith may we be welcome.
In certainty may we be questions.

By your Spirit, O God; in your Spirit, O God; through your Spirit, O God, may we walk beside all
that needs to be transformed and, in Spirit, become the change the world needs. Hear us; live in
us. We lift up to you now the prayers of our hearts in this silent and sacred moment, offering our
prayers for people in pain, people weighed down by the yoke of profound inequity, prejudice. We
pray for dear ones and strangers alike who cope with ill health, grief, loss...[silence]
By your Spirit, Creator, call us anew.

The Prayer Jesus Taught

We pray together a modern translation of the Prayer that Jesus Taught:

Our Father-Mother, who is in heaven, may your name be made holy, may your dominion come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the bread we need; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors; and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil. For yours is the dominion, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

On the night that he was betrayed,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:
“This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me.”
In the same way, he passed the cup after supper saying:
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

As you did so long ago, pour out your Spirit upon those
gathered in this place, as called by you,
and upon the gifts gracing this Table.

With the bread, you feed us, as you feed all creation,
so we can go forth, each day,
to offer hope to those who are forgotten,
to share joy with those who grieve,
to be the words of love for those who hear
only judgment and hate.

With the cup, you nourish us,
as you fill all of creation,
so we can be poured out, each day,
for the children bullied in schools,
for the seniors mistreated by society,
for the most vulnerable who bear the brunt
of budget and tax cuts.

And when your Spirit comes at the end of time and space,
gather us with our sisters and brothers
around your Table of grace and wonder.

Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world. Join in the banquet, for all is ready.

The bread of life, broken and shared, **[Dave and all take bread]**
The cup of blessing poured out, **[Dave and all drink]**

Hymn: *MV 40 Never Ending Joy, vs. 1*

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy.

1. God of every tribe, every language,
God of every river and sea,
God of every mountain and island,
you bring joy to me.

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy.

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts.

We are now commissioned to:

feed as we have been fed;

forgive as we have been forgiven;

love as we have been loved. Thank you, God. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 382 *Breathe on Me Breath of God*, vv. 1, 4

1. Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

4. Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
to thine eternity.

Blessing

May the Spirit always dance in your souls.

May the Spirit journey with you,

so nothing is ever taken for granted,

and may the Spirit tell you in a million different ways

you are known... and held... and loved by God.

We are God's children; known, held, and loved by our Creator.

God is with us. Thanks be to God.

Blessing Hymn: MV 142 *Oh A Song Must Rise*, vs. 3

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Oh a song must rise once again.

Singing out God's praises and glory,

the faithful voices blend,

oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

3. From ev'ry house of worship,

in ev'ry faith and tongue,

a song must rise once again.

From the villages and cities,

a new song must be sung,

a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Oh a song must rise once again.

Singing out God's praises and glory,

the faithful voices blend,

oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Postlude

Call to Worship, Dedication Prayer, and Communion liturgy (adapted) by Thom M. Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com, © June 9, 2019, Pentecost.

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