

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

May 28, 2023 – Pentecost

Welcome to Worship

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

Email smiletoday9@proton.me to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: MV 142 *Oh a Song Must Rise, vv. 1, 2, 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.

1. From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,
a song must rise once again.

From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
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.

2. From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again.

From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold,
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.

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's on this Day of Pentecost. Social Hour is on Zoom every Sunday night at 7pm. To get your Zoom link, email Diane. Her email is in the credits at the end of this worship

service, and on the YouTube page you are looking at if you are worshipping from home. The link was also sent with NEWS on Thursday.

Inviting Holy Light

We prepare ourselves now for worship. First by centring ourselves. Take this quiet moment to focus on your breathing... in and out. Notice how you feel, held by your chair, or couch, or the floor on which you sit. You are held also within Holy Love. Holy God, we come to worship this morning brought together by your Spirit. It is your Spirit who teaches us to pray and helps us be your faithful ones. We ask now for the presence of your Holy Spirit: come to us as wind and fire, as bubbling laughter, as healing touch, or as the still small voice of peace. We acknowledge your presence as we invite this Holy Light. [light candle]

Sung Response: VU 376 *Spirit of the Living God, vs. 1*

1. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Nurturing Safe Space

Each and every one of us is welcome in this space. Whether you feel joy or sadness today, feeling together or scattered, confident or questioning, you are welcome. Whatever our age, or skin colour, sexual identity, gender, or age, we are, in all diverse ways that our minds understand our world, beloved children of God, and we are welcome. This is a come-as-you-are worship. I invite us into this worship space as watchers of the word, as participants in the struggle, as agents of God's light and love, as revelers in the joy, and as members of an inclusive body. Let us worship God together. Let us open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to the divine's loving presence among us.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We are gathered today to worship on land that is the Traditional territory of the Atikemeksheng Anishnawbek and the Wahnapiatae First Nation. For thousands of years, First Peoples have lived on this land, honouring the Creator and living with respect for creation. But Christianity came to this land, not to love unconditionally, but to conform the land and its Indigenous peoples to a skewed vision of God and Christ. As we acknowledge Indigenous sisters and brothers and give thanks for their stewardship of the land and its plants and animals, the lakes and streams with their life forms, we accept our responsibility as Church and as people of faith to rebuild trust, healing and Right Relations.

Call to Worship

Today is Pentecost! The day when God's Spirit called us to go out to the world and love, love, love each other. The fire was laid upon all disciples to go, to not stay hiding in a room, or anywhere else. It's simple enough to think about, but the doing is harder. Yet the call is here before all who believe in God's love and all who accept that God's son showed us how. The fire is ours; it's inside and glowing and growing. The wind emphasized the words, "Go out and be with my people."
The call formed a church group.

And here we are!

Opening Prayer

Breath of Life, who fills our souls, we ask you to move in us.
Change us.
Blow us to the places you need us to be.
Help us to carry Christ's peace.
Help us to carry the Creator's love.
Help us to carry your joy— into our lives, into the world, into all of creation.

Bless us and bless all that lives, Holy Spirit! Amen!

Souffle de vie qui remplit nos âmes, nous te le demandons, circule en nous, transforme-nous.
Déplace-nous là où tu désires que nous soyons.
Aide-nous à transporter la paix du Christ.
Aide-nous à transporter l'amour du Créateur.
Aide-nous à transporter ta joie, dans nos vies, dans le monde,
dans toute ta création.
Bénis-nous, bénis tout ce qui vit, Esprit Saint! Amen!

The Prayer that Jesus Taught

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn: MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit, vs. 1*

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.

Time up Front – Birthday Celebration

Today, as you have probably heard, is the birthday of Christianity. The birthday story is about God surprising the followers of Jesus, Jesus had died, but then there were stories going around that Jesus was not dead. He had risen. Whatever that means! The people were told that something was going to happen soon! Well, it did! The Spirit came down on the followers of Jesus, It was like there was fire everywhere, and these smalltown people suddenly spoke in languages from countries they had never been to. That was exciting.

So, we are going to celebrate. We are going to make ourselves some fire and we are going to get something else too in a moment and we will parade around the church celebrating the Church's Birthday. God's Holy Spirit is like fire, a fire that inspires us to share our gifts, and to share gifts in us that we didn't even know before! Let's make our flames, and a few extra ones for the congregation. I invite you to make some more at the table over there and give them to people in the congregation during the rest of this service.

Let's Sing Happy Birthday to the Church now:
Happy Birthday to you...

This is a short repeat-after-me prayer:
Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus.
Thank you for celebrations like this one.
We like to celebrate.
but there are people near us who are sad,
so, help us to take time to listen and care too.
God, you rock! Amen.

Hymn: MV 156 *Sing with the Spirit, vs. 3*

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.

Scripture Readings (Suzanne Nykilchyk)

Let us pray: Spirit of God, at Pentecost you created new understanding among Jesus' gathered disciples. So fill us with new understanding of the Scriptures this day. Energize us to act faithfully in the name of Jesus Christ, God's Living Word. Amen.

Psalm 104:24-35 (Part 2), Refrain 2, VU p. 827

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

O God, how manifold are your works!

**With Wisdom at your side you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

There lies the great and mighty Sea,
teeming with living things both great and small.

**Upon it shall sail the ships,
and there is Leviathan, the monster you made to play in it.**

All these look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

**What you give them they gather up.
When you open your hand,
you fill them with good things.**

But when you hide your face, they despair.

When you take away their breath, they die, and return to dust.

**But when you send out your spirit, they live
again, and you renew the face of the earth.**

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

May your glory, O God, endure forever.

May you rejoice, O God, in your works.

When you look at the earth, it trembles,

when you touch the mountains they smoke.

I will sing to God as long as I live.

I will praise my God while I have being.

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Paraphrase of Acts 2: 1-21 "Miracle at the Marketplace"

Miriam liked going to the marketplace with her mother. There was always so much to see. There were many stalls selling all kinds of things, and today there would be many people from different countries who had come to Jerusalem for the celebration. It was fifty days after Passover, and everyone would be feasting to celebrate the harvest. Miriam and her mother were going to buy special food for the feast. Miriam was very excited.

Just as they got to the market, Miriam heard a rushing noise. Suddenly, a strong wind sprang up and almost blew Miriam over. Luckily, she was holding on to her mother's hand. As they walked further into the market, Miriam noticed that it was even noisier than usual. She could hear lots of people talking at once, but she couldn't understand what any of them were saying. Miriam held her mother's hand tightly – she was a bit scared by all the noise and confusion. Miriam saw where the noise was coming from when the crowd parted slightly. There was a group of people on the roof of a nearby house. They were all standing, holding their hands up, and talking at the tops of their voices.

A man standing next to Miriam's mother said, "I live in Crete and have come to Jerusalem for the festival. I didn't expect anyone to speak my language here, but one of those men speaks Cretan. He is praising God in my language."

"I can hear another one speaking Arabic and one speaking Egyptian.

What's happening?" asked another man.

"Perhaps they have drunk too much wine," suggested Miriam's mother.

The people on the house fell silent, and one of them came forward and spoke to the watching crowd. He explained that they weren't drunk. Something amazing had happened to them. A prophecy had been fulfilled, and they now felt God's presence with them in a new and exciting way.

When the man finished speaking, Miriam and her mother continued with their shopping, but Miriam couldn't stop thinking about what the man had said. She thought it would be good to feel that God was always with you. Maybe she could listen to the man again and find out more?

Will you pray with me: Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit of God, with gifts of new life, new inspiration, and fresh energy to witness to your saving love. Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit of God, and fit us for serving in your realm. Amen.

Message: "Things we miss when it's our Birthday"

Choir Anthem: Come, Holy Spirit, Come

Words: Carl P. Daw. Music: Steve Kupferschmid. © 1990 Jubilate Music Group LLC

Litany to The Holy Spirit – We light seven candles representing seven gifts of the Spirit.

1. Spirit of Joy—

come like the wind, swirling among us;
fill us with enthusiasm and energize us to do your work and your will.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Joy! *the first candle is lit*

2. Spirit of Truth—

come as the flame of Christ's light among us,
illuminating our hearts, our minds, our lives.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Truth! *the second candle is lit*

3. Spirit of Life—

come as the breath of life, pouring energy and power into our dry bones,
rekindling all who are weary, that they may have life and know God.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Life! *the third candle is lit*

4. Spirit of Hope—

come from the four winds, O breath, O restless searcher;
breathe upon your people, that creation may be renewed with hope.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Hope! *the fourth candle is lit*

5. Spirit of Love—

come as our Comforter and Consoler,
that all who are broken or wounded may be healed,
that all who grieve may be consoled by the power of your love and grace.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Love. *the fifth candle is lit*

6. Spirit of Wisdom—

come as the light of understanding,
that diversity in all its forms may be respected
and may be understood as gifts to cherish.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Wisdom! *the sixth candle is lit*

7. Spirit of Peace—

come as the winds of truth, that our hearts may be kindled
by the passion for justice and peace.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Peace! *the seventh candle is lit.*

As we celebrate the birthday of the church
on this day of Pentecost, may we—Jesus' followers in this time and place—
use these gifts and all the gifts of the Spirit,
to work for and serve the church and each other. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in the Spirit who blows through our lives:
unsettling us, stirring us up, propelling us forward.**

**We believe in the Spirit who comes as a fire:
warming us, empowering us, re-making us.**

**We believe in the Spirit who frees our tongues:
for talking of God, for prayer, for advocacy.**

**We believe in the Spirit:
the Counsellor, the Helper, the Breath of God. Amen.**

Offering Moment:

Dave gives the Offering Moment.

Dedication Hymn: MV 161 *I Have Called You by Your Name*, vv. 1, 4

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Dedication Prayer (unison)

**God who is in the spirit of Pentecost, you have given us so much:
Christ to inspire us,
your Spirit to enable us,
your love to support us;
and so we bring these offerings
so others may be inspired, enabled, and supported. Amen.**

Prayers of Community

Diane: Spirit.

Dave: Wind.

Suzanne: Breath (slight pause).

Bev: God beyond our description and understanding, you have come to be with us in many
amazing, wonderful, sometimes incomprehensible ways. You challenge us, comfort us, provoke
us, yes sometimes even anger and confuse us – yet you always love us, forgive us, and call us to
be your people. We thank you, and we come before you in prayer.

Dave: Spirit.

Bev: Wind.

Suzanne: Breath (slight pause).

Diane: Your love is a gift for all people. We pray for those who do not know they are loved by you, or who have forgotten, or whose hearts have grown weary and tired – even hardened – from living unsure they are loved at all. Infuse them with a new awareness of your spirit. Guide us to share the good news in ways that invite all to find their lives renewed and made whole.

Diane: Spirit.

Dave: Wind.

Bev: Breath (slight pause).

Suzanne: Offer comfort for those who are lost and alone. Offer wisdom to those who are in leadership over others, in communities, churches, and nations. Offer a spirit of renewal for a tired world.

Diane: Spirit.

Bev: Wind.

Suzanne: Breath (slight pause).

Dave: We pray to you, O God, in a sense of wonder and hope, knowing that your compassion for all Creation is deep, never-ending, and always unfolding. In the quiet of this moment, from the depth of our hearts we offer to you our concerns for people or creatures or communities, near and far, for whom we worry. Maybe we offer celebrations and inspirational moments that compel us to say, "Thank you God". We offer these now in silence. (*silence*)

Diane: Spirit.

Dave: Wind.

Suzanne: Breath (slight pause).

Bev: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 375 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, vv. 1, 4*

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

Blessing

As we go forth from this place, let us move with the SPIRIT!

Let us move with the SPIRIT!

Let us breathe in the SPIRIT!

Let us sing forth the SPIRIT!

Let us live by the SPIRIT!

Go forth in our God's blessing to love and serve wherever the SPIRIT moves! Amen.

Choral Blessing: VU 423 *God Be with You*, vv. 1, 2, 3

1. God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you,
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Inviting Holy Light from Seasonal Resources Pentecost, *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services*, p. 204. © 2000 The United Church Publishing House.

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