



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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May 31, 2020 – Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship (based on Acts 2)**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

This Pentecost, our hearts are together, even though we are apart.

Suddenly, a sound like a gale force wind filled the whole house where they were sitting.

This Pentecost, may God's Spirit fill our homes and meet us where we are.

Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks

This Pentecost, we proclaim that God's hope, peace, joy, and love are more contagious than any virus ever could be.

And they started speaking as the Spirit enabled them.

With one heart and voice this Pentecost, let us worship God!

Response

The Lone, Wild Bird (v.1 & 5)

VU 384

Words (v 1): Henry Richard McFadyen © 1927 Homiletic and Pastoral Review

Words (v 5): Marty Haugen © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Music: Public Domain

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.
And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

O search me, God, my heart reveal,
renew my life, my spirit heal;
for I am yours, I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

Life & Work of the Church

Land Acknowledgement



As we prepare for worship, we take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. It has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog, part of the Williams Treaty. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory. We seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Candle Lighting

We light the candle as a sign of the Spirit at work in the world.

May its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

Opening Hymn

Like The Murmur of the Dove's Song

VU 205

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1982, Music: Peter Cutts © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.

- 1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
- 2 To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
- 3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

Opening Prayer



Spirit of energy, in whom we live and move and have our being, guide our steps through the complexities of life; broaden our vision so that our sight will not be limited by what we see, widen our wisdom so that we will not be limited by what we know, open our love so that we will not be limited by what we can accept. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.

May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.

Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen

Gospel Reading Luke 24: 44-53 New Revised Standard Version

⁴⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what Abba God promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Hymn

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (v.1, 3, 4)

VU 375

Words & Music: James K. Manley © 1978 James K. Manley

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

- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

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

New Testament Reading Acts 2: 1-11 New Revised Standard Version

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

- ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Every Time I Feel The Spirit

(African American Spiritual)

Every time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray
Every time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray

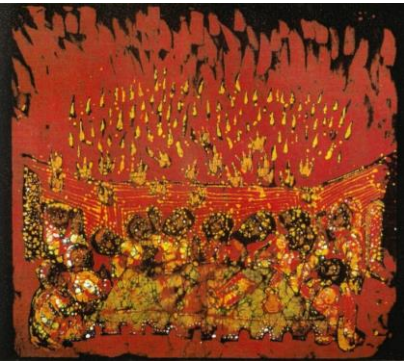
On the mountain my God spoke
Out of Your mouth came fire and smoke
All around me looked so fine
Asked my God if all was mine

Every time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray
Every time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray

Jordan River is chilly and cold
Chills the body but not the soul
There's just one train on this track
It runs to heaven and then right back

Every time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray
Every time I feel the Spirit
Moving in my heart, I will pray

Sermon - Pentecost –Rev. Daniel Benson





**Hymn
(v.1, 2, 5 & 6)**

**Holy Spirit, Truth Divine
VU 368**

Words: Samuel Longfellow. Music: Leighton George Hayne
Public Domain

- 1 Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine.
Voice of God and inward light,
wake my Spirit, clear my sight.
- 2 Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine.
Kindle every high desire,
purify me with your fire.
- 5 Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine.
Speak to calm this tossing sea,
grant me your tranquillity.
- 6 Holy Spirit, joy divine,
gladden now this heart of mine.
In the desert ways I sing;
spring, O living water, spring!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



Prayers of the People



*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

I Am The Light of the World (v. 2 ,3, 4)

VU 87

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee © 1969 Desert Flower Music

I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.
2 To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.
3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!

I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.
4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,

to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!
I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude



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Other Resources for Today

Call to Worship – Thanks to Penny Nelson of Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada on the north shore of Nova Scotia for creating this Call

Depictions of the Holy Spirit in Art

1. Dove - *Dove of the Holy Spirit* - St. Peter's Basilica, *Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Italy, 1666*
2. Tongues - *Espiritu Santo* - *Doménikos Theotokópoulos (El Greco), Greece, 1597*
3. Water – *The Ecumenical Council* - *Salvador Dali, Spain, 1960.*
4. Fire – *Pentecost* (influenced by phrase 'Like a Wildfire') - *P. Solomon Raj, India, 1980s.*
5. Wind – *Come Holy Spirit* – *Lance Brown (Christian Performance Artist) USA, 2010*

Lectionary Readings for Today

Numbers 11:24-30 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶ Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!" ³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Psalm 104:24-35 The Message (MSG)

²⁴⁻³⁰ What a wildly wonderful world, GOD!
You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.
Oh, look—the deep, wide sea,
brimming with fish past counting,
sardines and sharks and salmon.
Ships plow those waters,
and Leviathan, your pet dragon, romps in them.
All the creatures look expectantly to you
to give them their meals on time.
You come, and they gather around;
you open your hand and they eat from it.
If you turned your back,
they'd die in a minute—
Take back your Spirit and they die,

revert to original mud;
Send out your Spirit and they spring to life—
the whole countryside in bloom and blossom.
³¹⁻³² The glory of GOD—let it last forever!
Let GOD enjoy his creation!
He takes one look at earth and triggers an earthquake,
points a finger at the mountains, and volcanoes erupt.
³³⁻³⁵ Oh, let me sing to GOD all my life long,
sing hymns to my God as long as I live!
Oh, let my song please him;
I'm so pleased to be singing to GOD.
But clear the ground of sinners—
no more godless men and women!
O my soul, bless GOD!

John 7:37-39 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As^[a] the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart^[b] shall flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.