



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: **All the People – wherever and however they gather**

Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe**

Minister of Community Development: **Rev. Carmen Llanos**

Music Director: **Randy Vancourt**

Scripture Reader: **Norma Grech**

June 5, 2022

**Pentecost, Communion,
97th Anniversary of UC of C Sunday**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

On the day of Pentecost-

A day just like today-

The followers of Jesus –

We are followers of Jesus-

Gathered in one place.

We are gathered as one.

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like
the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house
where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire,
rested on each one of them. All of them were filled with
the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as
the Spirit gave them ability.

We gather with words of welcome and love!

Opening Hymn

The Lone, Wild Bird

VU 384

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.

The ends of earth are in your hand,
the sea's dark deep and faroff land.

And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

Each secret thought is known to you,
the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,
my deepest joys, my silent tears.

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.

Land Acknowledgement

This land on which we gather is the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Mississaugas of the Credit. We live, work, play and worship the Creator on this land and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship that are etched in footprints, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and rock that surrounds us.

Candle Lighting

In this time of worship, the Spirit of God breathes life into our every breath, giving us strength to create the bond that is between us.

Spirit is the love and joy we share bringing peace and grace.

Light candle here

The Spirit is among us today as we worship.

Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit – breathe into our hearts the holy fire of change:

See our talents flare with holy energy! Give us wings of piping-hot courage.

Ignite our tongues with compassionate words.

Fill our souls with flames of inclusive love as we reach out to others, enveloping us all in glowing coals of acceptance.

Then grant us lasting embers of strength and faith to embrace the new world of your creation.

Amen.

Hymn

Spirit of Gentleness

VU 375

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

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.

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.

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.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel John 14:8-17 NRSV

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe^[a] because of the works themselves.

¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If in my name you ask me^[b] for anything, I will do it.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep^[c] my commandments.

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,^[d] to be with you forever.

¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be^[e] in^[f] you.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon Three Hands Clapping

Hymn

There’s a Spirit in the Air

VU 582

There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.'

Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world

May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay,
live tomorrow's life today.

There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Life & Work of the Church

Today we remember our roots and celebrate the 97th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit brought together the church. So we come together as God's people, part of the beloved community known as Birchcliff Bluffs United Church,

To sing and to serve, to live and to love, to pray and to play.

Alleluia and Amen!!

Offering

We offer you, transforming spirit, these gifts: may the financial resources we bring become the sails that catch your wind, enabling you to fill our sails with your direction.

May the time we freely donate become the rigging securing those sails that we maximize your will among us.

Bless us all as we give, dedicating these gifts to your will and your way.

Communion

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

They are lifted in sacred celebration.

Let us give thanks to God, Creator of all.

Each part of creation greets us as neighbour and invites us to see, to hear, to taste, to touch, to experience wisdom. We gather in this sacred space, in awe of God's presence surrounding us, holding us, working through us.

In our gathering we remember that we are guests of this land, joining our voices with the voices of the existing circle of life, singing, Holy, holy. Holy God, creator of all, source of life, fount of blessing, heaven and earth and all creation is filled with your glory!

We remember Jesus who reminds us that wisdom is all around us, we remember his life, his love for neighbour and friend, and we fall silent as we remember ... silence here ...

At his last meal with those he called friends, Jesus took bread, broke it saying that this bread was like his own body, an offering to restore all creation to right relationship.

He also took a cup and blessed it, saying the juice of the grape was like his blood, poured out that a new relationship with God and neighbour might be possible. These are the gifts of God for all God's people.

Holy Spirit, pour out your life-giving power on these gifts, that we may the sight and sign of love and life to one another.

The bread of life ...

The cup of blessing ...

Prayers of the People

Inspired by the Holy Spirit we come, knowing we are not alone and that new life is ours for the asking. Forgive us when we feel downcast and defeated. Forgive us when we hurt others and often ourselves too. Much as we try to be more like you, we often let ourselves and you down. Help us to learn from our mistakes. Forgive us that we might start anew, may your truth guide and sustain us that in companionship with the Spirit, we are made whole.

Lord's Prayer (sung or spoken)

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

Till All My People Are One

Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one

1. Spread the peace to others
Spread it everywhere

Make the world know right from wrong
Help the world to care

2. Open your heart to others
Lend a willing hand
Show the lonely and the poor
That God is in our land

Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one

3. Cry out the sound of freedom
Make every sound be heard
People crying painfully
Hear their every word

4. Know that God is with us
In everything you do
Though hard times may lie ahead
Peace will follow through

Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one
Till all my people are one

Benediction & Commissioning

As we leave this building, the breath of the Spirit goes with us, enabling us to pay attention to the needs around us, calling us to use our talents wisely, showing us opportunities for friendships and sharing.

The Spirit gives us the strength to face each new day with hope. May its inspiration never leave us.

Go with the grace of God, the love of Jesus and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Postlude

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Additional Lectionary
Year C –Pentecost
Sunday, June 5, 2022**

Genesis 11:1-9

New Revised Standard Version

11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as they migrated from the east,^[a] they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” ⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, “Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused^[b] the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Acts 2:1-21

New Revised Standard Version

2 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.”

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. ¹⁶No, 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.'