



**Sunday, May 23, 2021**



Pentecost is celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day from Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. The disciples were filled with the Spirit and spoke in different languages preaching to all the people there who heard the message in their own language. It must have been an amazing site to behold the Spirit descending upon the disciples. That same Spirit is available to us as Christians to teach us and to empower us to continue the work of the disciples and of Christ.

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**GATHERING:** Spirit of God, descend upon my heart  
(Tune: "Morecambe" by Frederick C Atkinson) arr. Mark Hayes

**CENTERING WORDS**

**ANTHEM:** "Of the Father's love begotten"; text: 4th century by Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, translated by John Mason Neale (1854), set to a 13th century plainchant by Edwin Childs (2005)

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN: MV23** Come, O Holy Spirit vs. 1 & 2

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2021, written by Sandra Litt, Waterdown, Ontario)

The Holy Spirit came as fire and wind. **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

People of all genders, all ages, all cultures witnessed the day of Pentecost.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

The people were bewildered, astonished, amazed! They wondered:

**What are we to do?**

Then Peter raised stood and raised his voice.

**We need to know: What did he say?**

He said, "We're not drunk. We are filled with God's Spirit so that we can tell you about Jesus of Nazareth." **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

The Spirit danced in fire and in a multitude of languages. The Spirit was poured out on those from young to the old.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

Dare to be dreamers and to believe. **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Dare to believe in what can and could be, or God is gracious.

God is Creator.

God's love knows no bounds.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

**Come, abide and empower us today!**

**HYMN: MV23** Come, O Holy Spirit vs. 3 & 1

**OPENING PRAYER**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**HYMN: VU375** Spirit, Spirit of gentleness vs. 1 & 2

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Acts 2:1-21

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN: VU375** Spirit, Spirit of gentleness vs. 3 & 4

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Come to this table of grace, where we call on the Holy Spirit.

To pour on all of us God's gift of love.

Come and feast and drink deeply, from the cup the Spirit has blessed.

May God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most holy. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, Creator of wind and fire, Breath of life.

How great and gracious you are!

You pour forth your Spirit, filling us with gifts and visions. You touch us with flame, marking us as prophets and holy dreamers.

You breathe and –Spirit filled-empower us to proclaim your glory.



**OUR LAND** - We remember, as we celebrate God's presence in Worship that St. Andrew's River Heights United Church gathers in Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis Nation. As Treaty people, we seek to live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all our relations.

We dream, O God, of community; yet every day deny our dreams.  
 Our sister and brother we call stranger; your vision we call foolish.  
 But you, O God, call us by name.  
 With arms outstretched on a cross  
 you call us to yourself and claim us as your people.  
 Therefore we join with prophets and dreamers of every age, in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim your glory:  
**Holy, holy, holy God of power and might.**  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of power and might.**  
**Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes,**  
**who comes in God's name. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, Ever-giving God, for sending us Jesus the Christ.  
 He took the bread, thanked you, broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying,  
 "Take this, all of you, and eat it.  
 This is my body given for you.  
 Each time you eat this bread, remember me."

In the same way he took the cup, thanked you and gave it to his friends, saying,  
 "This cup is the new promise God has made with you in my blood.  
 Each time you drink from this cup, remember me."

Surprising, Nurturing, Loving God:  
 we offer you this loaf and cup, remembering Christ's death,  
 celebrating his resurrection, waiting with hope his coming again.  
 So we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

God of wind and fire, send your Holy Spirit on these gifts, and what we do,  
 that we and these gifts might be a surprise.  
 Help us to love to one another, and offer that love to all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,  
 God most holy, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen, amen.** **ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup  
 The gifts of God for the people of God.  
 Let us partake of the bread –the Bread of Life.

Let us partake of the cup-the Cup of Communion-the blood of Christ shed for us.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, we praise and thank you for the food we have received from your table-for Jesus Christ, the bread of life and true vine.**

**Grant that our hands, may touch, reach out, hold and serve.**

**Grant that our eyes, may see both the needs of others and the gifts they offer.**

**Grant that our tongues, may speak of reconciliation and peace.**

**Grant that our ears, may hear the cry of the poor for bread and justice.**

**Grant that our feet may run with you, with our near and distant neighbor.**

**Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 914/916:

Response: **VU204** Come, Holy Spirit

We pray: **Come Holy Spirit Come!**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU218** We praise you, O God vs. 1

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, and Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

#### BLESSING

BENEDICTION (**MV212** Sent out in Jesus' name)

**Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.**

**The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain into a world of love, of justice and of peace.**

**The task is our to do, to set it really free.**

**O, help us to obey, and carry out your will**

POSTLUDE: Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire  
 ("Veni Creator Spiritus" Sarum plainsong) arr. Wilbur Held

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped with today's service—we couldn't have pulled it off without you!

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