

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

We are gathered on the treaty territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors. As a community of faith called to seek justice, may we honour our role as treaty people.

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle:

We know the tradition of candles on birthday cakes as a sign of light, life, and celebration, used as a symbol of a significant marker in the passage of time. May we understand these candles as markers of the birthday of the church, and may the light and warmth of these flames and the breath that we now use to blow the candles out be reminders of this birthday of the Christian church called Pentecost.

(Written by Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, N.W.T., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2020, page 27. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

The Spirit is singing and dancing.

What a dynamic wind that is circling among us!

The Spirit is speaking in marvellous voices.

What a sight! What a delight!

(Written by Laura Turnbull, Penticton United Church, Penticton, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2020, page 27. Used with permission.)

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

[VU 375]

[Chorus]:

**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. [Chorus]**

**You swept thro' the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded
with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets
to open their eyes. [Chorus]**

**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 thro' your people
on the rush of the wind. [Chorus]**

**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. [Chorus]**

Prayer of Confession

We pray, come, Holy Spirit, come. But when you rush among us, we say – not like this. We pray, come, Holy Spirit, come. But when you blow through us, we say – not right now. We pray, come, Holy Spirit, come. But when you try to fill us, we say – our lives are too full already. Forgive us God – for trying to control how, why, and when you come into our lives. Open us to the surprises of your grace. Open us to the fullness of your love. Open us – come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

(Written by Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin Pastoral Charge, Emo, Ont., Gathering L/E/P 2012, page 44. Used with permission.)

Words of Assurance:

Music Ministry

Over→

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Praise God From Whom [VU 541]

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Offering Prayer:

**God of dreams and visions, you call us to be justice seekers.
You inspire us to envision a world filled with peace and
compassion. May these offerings become a balm in times of
trouble and a catalyst in times of complacency. Fill us with
your spirit. Amen.**

(Written by Laura Turnbull, Penticton United Church, Penticton, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2020, page 29. Used with permission.)

Prayer before the Scriptures:

The pages of scripture hold many things, O God.

You have inspired poetry, song, and story.

You have called many people

to faithfulness through these words.

Open to us the meaning so that we

may find your will for us. Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Kings United Pastoral Charge, Annandale/Bay Fortune/Dundas/Souris, P.E.I., Gathering L/E/P 2011, page 43. Used with permission.)

A Reading from Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-21

The Disciples of Jesus

(Written by David Robertson & Susan Lukey, High River United Church, High River, Alta., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2020, page 77. Adapted. Used with permission.)

James the Less, read by Elizabeth Carr

Judas (Jude) Thaddeus, read by Reid Andrews

Barnabas, read by Phil Teillet

Dorcas, read by Joanna Parry

The Women Who Followed Jesus, read by Courtney Britton

Children, read by Cindy Duncan

Special thank you to our readers for presenting this special Pentecost reflection!

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

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
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Come, O Holy Spirit

[MV 23]

**Come, O Holy Spirit,
set the Church on fire;
strike it as the lightning
hits a posing spire.
Burn away the structures
and consume the sham
of our holy systems:
Come, in Jesus' name!**

**Chorus:
Come, come, come in Jesus' name!
Take our hearts by storm.
All the world lies open:
Pentecost is now! I said a
come, come, come in Jesus' name!
Take our hearts by storm.
All the world lies open:
Pentecost is now!**

**Blow away the cobwebs
of our stubborn past.
Come, send flying from us
myths unfit to last.
Wind of change, refresh us
and disturb our calm;
teach us what true love is,
take our hearts by storm. [Chorus]**

**Free us from the babble
of our Babel mind;
spark in us a language
all can understand.
Lighten then our darkness,
come and show us how**

**all the world lies open:
Pentecost is now!** [Chorus]

Blessing

Closing Song: God Be with You till We Meet Again [VU 423]

**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.**