

Jordan Station United Church est. 1859

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May 31, 2020 – Pentecost Sunday & Communion

Liturgical Colour - Red



Gathering for Worship

Introduction to the Service by Rev. Anita

Prelude: Spirit of the Living God (by: Daniel Iverson)

Welcome & Lighting of the Christ Candle

A time of quiet reflection and Opening Prayer

****Opening Music: 10,000 Reasons** (ccli #6016351)

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

TO WORSHIP GOD...

Call to Worship

One: Who is our God?

All: The One who created all things.

One: Who is the Holy Spirit?

All: God's wisdom who created all things.

One: Who is the Almighty Lord?

All: The One who continues to create all things.

One: Let us worship our God with praise and thanksgiving. Amen

(Revised with permission, Wanda Winfield, Blenheim U.C.)

TO PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD...

Time with the Young and Young at Heart – Pinwheels

Prayer of Illumination *(reader Marilyn Salmon)*

Let us pray . . . Our great Jehovah, we pray that you turn your face to us, and shine your truth for all to see. As Ezekiel knew your great power on this our day of Pentecost, help us to bear witness for all the world, that we too can be filled with the holy spirit. Amen.

(written by Tim Davies)

1st Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Old Testament, page 806)

(reader Marilyn Salmon)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath[a] to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath[b] in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:[c] Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath,[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Special Music: Wind of Change (More Voices #23)

Verse 1

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!

Refrain

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

(repeat)

Verse 2

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.

Come, come, come, in Jesus name!
Take our hearts by storm.
All the world lies open:
Pentecost is now!

Verse 3

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!

Come, come, come, in Jesus name!
Take our hearts by storm.
All the world lies open now!
Amen!

2nd Lesson: Acts 2:1-21 (New Testament, page 119)

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. 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.’

One: For the word of God in scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us;

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “On Pentecost We Gather”

****Hymn: Wind Who Makes All Winds that Blow** (Voices United #196)

Verse 1

Wind who makes all winds that blow,
gusts that bend the saplings low,
gales that heave the sea in waves,
stirrings in the mind's deep caves,
aim your breath with steady power
on your church this day, this hour.
Raise, renew the life we've lost,
Spirit God of Pentecost.

Verse 2

Fire who fuels all fires that burn,
suns around which planets turn,
beacons marking reefs and shoals,
shining truth to guide our souls,
come to us as once you came:
burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and Power, Might and Strength,
fill your church, its breadth and length.

Verse 3

Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame,
move within our mortal frame.
Make our hearts an altar pyre,
kindle them with your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze
till our lives, our deeds and ways,
speak that tongue which every land
by your grace shall understand.

Our Response to God's Word:

Announcements

Minute for Mission: Embracing the Spirit (*reader Marilyn Salmon*)

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**We Gather in the Spirit:
A Pentecost Communion Liturgy**

Invitation to the Table:

One: We come to the table --

All: all of us welcome.

One: We invite God to be part of us --

All: all of us breaking bread together.

One: We prepare to remember Jesus --

All: all of us touched by the Spirit of truth.

One: We hope to be empowered by our feast --

all of us with hearts burning inside
like the flame of Pentecost.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

One: O God of creation, whose Spirit stilled the waters of chaos,
whose breath filled all creatures with life, we praise you.

O God of inspiration, whose Spirit anointed kings and priests,
whose power emboldened the prophets of old, we praise you.

O God of Jesus Christ, whose Spirit descended dove-like on the man of Galilee, whose glory
shone in words of wisdom and deeds of love, we praise you.

O God of Pentecost, whose Spirit came to the faithful waiting at Jerusalem, whose gifts
empowered the church for service and witness, we praise you.

Prayers of Concern:

One: We invite the Spirit of God to blow through our lives and our world, as we pray about
the needs that surround us.

You are invited to respond to each section of the prayer.

When I say, "Your Spirit's touch brings life, O God," you'll say, "and we are thankful."

Your Spirit's touch brings life, O God

All: and we are thankful.

One: We pray for those who have lost faith --
for those who have come ungrounded in their lives,
who see nothing but hopeless around them,
who feel distant from you, O God.

Your Spirit's touch brings life, O God

All: and we are thankful.

One: We pray for those who face challenge --
for those whose health is failing them,
who find money to be an obstacle,
who suffer oppression and injustice.

Your Spirit's touch brings life, O God

All: and we are thankful.

One: We pray for those who live apart from you--
for those who do not show love freely and abundantly,
who act selfishly, who hurt others by their actions or inaction.

Your Spirit's touch brings life, O God

All: and we are thankful.

One: Spirit of God, fill this world with your compassion.

Pour your love upon it. Light it up with your power.

This was Jesus' vision that he taught us to pray about and we pray about it now, saying:

The Lord's Prayer: (All)

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.

Remembering Jesus at the Table:

One: When Jesus was at table with his friends, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to those who were gathered there and they were changed.

Continuing to offer hospitality, he took a cup of wine and blessed it, and passed it around the table and the holy was revealed.

This same meal is now offered to us. We gladly accept it, knowing that in any ordinary moment like this, God can be revealed to us too.

All is now ready for you. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution of the Elements

"This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."
(Bread is distributed)

"This is my blood, shed for you. Take and drink."
(*Juice is distributed*)

Communion Music: The River (ccli #4316864)
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (Voices United #205)

Post-Communion Prayer:

One: Through the great Comforter, Advocate, our faithful Guide,
we have become a part of God's holy love.
And so, we pray to the eternal one:

**All: God of love,
as you have blessed this meal,
bless now our work and our words,
that we may extend your welcome to the world
in what we do and by who we are.
May the Spirit's power make it so. Amen.**

(This Communion liturgy was prepared by Rev. Ali Smith, Forest Hill United Church in Fredericton. All words are by Ali Smith, except for the Prayer of Thanksgiving which was written by John Moses from Gathering L/E/P 2012.)

Offering Invitation

****Doxology: Called by Earth and Sky** (More Voices #135; Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus)

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Offering Prayer

Closing our Worship & Going Forth in God's Name:

****Commission and Benediction - Sending Forth into the World**

Closing Music: Oh, A Song Must Rise (More Voices #142)

Refrain

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again (again)
Singing out God's praises and glory,

the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend. (descend)

Verse 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.

Verse 2

From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again. (again)
From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Verse 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.