

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Pentecost Sunday – May 23rd, 2021

Prelude: “Preludium in D Minor” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome to St. Luke’s for today’s Service, celebrating “Pentecost Sunday”.

A reminder of the Wheatley Food Bank hosting their Drive-Thru Drop Off Food Drive at the Wheatley Food Bank on Saturday June 5th from 9 am to 3 pm. Talbot Street will be open for donations from 9 am to noon on June 5th.

For our first of the month Food Bank Donation will also be June 5th. St. Andrew’s front door will be open for drop-offs from 10 am to noon - on Saturday June 5th. Thank you for your support of our local Food Banks.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - Southbuxton.ca and Talbotstreet.ca .

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: We worship God who came among us. Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Eric: Christ has sent us the Spirit of truth to dwell with us always. We receive the Holy Spirit.

People: **We have an advocate who intercedes on behalf of all the saints. We receive the Holy Spirit.**

Eric: The Spirit comes upon the mighty and the lowly the same. We receive the Holy Spirit.

People: **The Spirit helps us in our weakness and translates our groanings when our words fail. We receive the Holy Spirit.**

Eric: The Spirit breathes life into the dry bones of our faith.

People: **Alleluia! We receive the Holy Spirit.**

Eric: Come, let us worship.

Opening Hymn: “This Is My Father’s World” – Video – Verses 1 & 2

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, you hovered over the face of the waters before creation was given its form. In your wisdom, everything was created. Your works are many, and Earth is full of your creatures. From those who swim in the depths of the sea to those who scurry along the dry grounds. You made them all and sustain them even now. You renew the face of the ground with your breath of life. We all have our being in you and through you alone. Amen.

Scripture: Acts 2: 1 - 21 “Street Corner Proclamation” - by

Today is the Pentecost festival! My family woke up early to head up to the temple, where we will make our sacrifices. Everyone is tired from our long day of travelling yesterday. Everyone, that is, but my father. We are struggling to keep up with his brisk pace. Suddenly we hear shouting. Looking over, I see a crowd of people rushing out of one of the houses along the street. I begin to move closer to the crowd of people; as I do, the shouting becomes more distinguishable. Then I hear a man standing near to me yell, “Aren’t these men Galileans?”

As I move closer, one of the men that I had seen come out of the house rushes up to me. His eyes are lit with excitement; he tells me about what he calls “the good news.” He says that Jesus has risen. Calls him Messiah and Lord of all, and that the promises God made to our ancestors many years ago have been fulfilled! He continues speaking in an animated fashion. As I listen, I can’t help but feel bewildered. Now that I see these men closer, I can tell from their dress and accent that they are indeed from Galilee. I stare at him, feeling astonished. I can understand him! But how? Surprised, I am unable to convince my feet to back away and rejoin my family.

Suddenly I feel a hand grasp around my arm, and I’m pulled backwards away from this Galilean. I look up to see my oldest brother glaring down at me. My father is close behind him, and I’m reprimanded for indulging my attention to these unholy men, who he said were clearly drunk of sweet wine. I immediately protest and remind my father that this couldn’t be true because new wine was not yet in season. With that comment, I am hurried away even faster.

I look back to see another person from this group step away from the crowd. He begins to speak. I feel my heart aching to go back as I want so desperately to hear what is being said, especially about the man they called Jesus. Could what is being said about the Messiah be true?

We continue to make our way to the temple, and I can’t stop wondering if there is any truth in what is being proclaimed. I am so disappointed that I couldn’t stay to hear what the other man had to say. There is something different about the people that rushed into the streets. It’s hard for me to place what it is, but there is a joy, a passion about them that I’ve never seen before. I still feel shocked that this man came up to me and communicated so freely. He looked at me like I was his equal, instead of seeing me only as a girl.

Scripture Hymn: “This is My Father’s World” – Video

– Verse 3

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget

that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world, the battle is not done,
Jesus who died shall be satisfied
and heaven and earth be one

Message: "Pentecost"

Today, as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, we concentrate on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit today is symbolized by the elements of wind and fire. We are told that The Holy Spirit is poured out on all nations and all peoples, so that through this outpouring - all nations may be blessed and receive the good news.

As in Ezekiel, the wind of the Spirit is portrayed as the breath of life that swoops in and enlivens those dry bones so they can live again. God is still at work, even amongst dead bones, bringing new life into the most unexpected places. The presence of the Spirit is the continuation of God's redemptive work completed in Jesus the Christ. Through our adoption in Christ, the sharing of the Spirit and the redemption of humanity, will positively affect the whole of creation. It is clear that God cares for all of creation, not only humanity, and redemption is for all creation.

What Christians consider the Sunday of Pentecost, is also the Jewish Festival of Weeks, a one-day festival 50 days after the Passover. This is another celebration we share with our Jewish cousins. The Jewish Festival of Weeks was when the Israelites offered God the first fruits of the harvest. So as Jews, Jesus' disciples would have gathered to celebrate the Festival of Weeks.

On that same day, the advocate whom Jesus promised the disciples arrives. The imagery of wind and fire are reminiscent of God's presence as it was known through physical manifestations. Throughout the Bible, wind represents God's presence as Spirit. The Spirit represented as wind is also a symbol of regeneration and new birth.

In today's story, many are talking in languages that some do not understand, but others are hearing the Good News in their native language. Many scholars view the occurrence of speaking in other tongues as the reversal of the events that occurred at the construction of the Tower of Babel. That where speaking in different languages stopped the construction of the Tower – is turned to a positive as the message of the Apostles which is understandable to all nations – therefore also gifted to all nations.

The arrival of the Holy Spirit prepares and empowers the church to carry out the mandate that Christ issued his disciples. Believers are equipped to carry out Christ's mission in the world. The central theme is God pours out the Holy Spirit onto all peoples. This affirms the Spirit is available to everyone and we as the church, are to share the Good News. Paul says, "When we don't know what to say, The Holy Spirit will give us the words". Our job as Christians is to show up.

How is God communicating with you? Chances are you feel the Holy Spirit, and you hear the Holy Spirit in your own tongue. Do we like the disciples experience sounds of rushing wind and tongues "as if fire" has appeared? Maybe. For myself, it is as I am doing something or saying something, that I know these are not my actions or words, and is from above – I credit The Holy Spirit. If I can just show up – like Paul, I can leave the words to The Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel is called to speak to a field of dead bones, Jesus promises an advocate, and the Spirit of God flows out upon the early church, empowering Peter to make a bold sermon. God is still at work, even amongst dead bones, bringing new life into the most unexpected places. Where do we experience new life in our lives? Would we contribute that new life to God's Holy Spirit?

The events of Pentecost show that the Spirit comes and speaks into the heart in our natural, intuitive "tongue" - in a way that is accessible to all. The Holy Spirit speaks to our very heart. This is a precious indication of God's desire for nothing to get in the way of our relationship with God. With the presence of The Holy Spirit, we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 380 "She Comes Sailing..."

*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

- 1 Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
 like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
 like a mother breathing life into her child. (to Verse 2)
- 2 Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
 when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,

and then down the ages still she flew on.
*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

3 To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would
never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. (to Verse 4)

4 Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.
*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

5 Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.
*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We are touched by The Holy Spirit. We give in love, to enable the church to reach out and touch others with The Holy Spirit. Let us give in love!

Offertory: VU 541 “Praise God From Whom...”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer:

People: We praise God for Creation that is uniquely and wonderfully made. We praise God, the sustainer of life, who provides us with all that we need. We offer up our praises with our whole being. Creating and sustaining God, may our meditations be fixed on only what is pleasing to you. May we produce the first fruits of the Spirit in which you delight. May the glory of God endure forever. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Spirit of truth and life, we search for you in this aching world.

People: A world that was created by you and through you.

Eric: May our eyes see how you delight in your beautiful and diverse creation.

People: Help us to remember that you find joy in diversity and make things new through differences.

Eric: Grant us the capacity to respect the beliefs, opinions, and traditions of others.

People: Grant us the tools to build bonds of common understanding that will bridge the divide of hatred.

Eric: Renew our ignorance for enlightenment. *(Moment of silence)*

People: Grant us new insight. *(Moment of silence)*

Eric: Replace our lack of understanding with empathy. *(Moment of silence)*

People: Infuse us with a sense of curiosity, instead of fear, when we are met with things we have not experienced ourselves. *(Moment of silence)*

Eric: Heal the wounds that misunderstanding, discrimination, and racism have created.

People: Bless us with your breath of life to awaken our sleeping hearts.

Eric: May we find our voice to speak up in the face of injustice.

People: May we be united in our common humanity, knowing that we were each made in the image of God.

Eric: As we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us...

*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, forever and ever. Amen.*

Blessing:

Eric: Go into the world in the truth and reality of God's love. We are covered in the presence of the Holy Spirit, now and forever more.

Postlude: "Allegro con Brio - Beethoven" – Christie Coatsworth

Prayers: - Please include these people in your prayers this week.

We have offered prayer for these people each Sunday morning just before the Zoom Service.
It was suggested to share these names with the total group – as “In the Spirit We Are One”.

Cancer:	Karen	Special:	Susan	Melissa
	Jasmine		Zoe	Canadian
	Tom		Becky	Armed Forces
	George		Earl	Roe family –
	Cindy & Connie		Barry/ Marsha	passing of John
	Lynn		Glen	Arthur
	Jan		Billy	
	Allan		Leone	
	Len		Francine	