

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Pentecost Sunday – May 28th, 2023

Prelude: by Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: What a wildly wonderful world, God! Earth overflows with your amazing creations.

People: **The deep, wide sea brims with fish: sardines, sharks, and salmon.**

Eric: Ships travel on the waters, and great sea creatures play in them.

People: **Every creature depends on you for food. You open your hand, and they eat from it.**

Eric: You send your spirit to sustain and renew.

People: **May the glory of God last forever!**

Eric: Let us sing to God all our lives.

People: **Praise God!**

Opening Hymn: VU 161 “Welcome, Happy Morning”

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today;
come then, True and Faithful, now fulfil your word;
this is your third morning: rise, O buried Lord!
*Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!*

Earth with joyful welcome clothes itself for spring;
greeted with life reviving our returning king:
flowers in every pasture, leaves on every bough,
speak of sorrows ended; Jesus triumphs now! R

Author and sustainer, source of life and breath;
you for our salvation trod the path of death:
Jesus Christ is living, God for evermore!
Now let all creation hail him and adore. R

Loose our souls imprisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
all that now is fallen, raise to life again!
Show your face in brightness, shine the
whole world through;

hope returns with daybreak, life returns with you. R **

Opening Prayer:

People: Holy Spirit, dance your light into the corners of our lives: when we are cold, bring us warmth; when we are afraid, bring us comfort; when we are lost, brighten the path; when we are unsure, mark the way; when we are in need, come into our presence. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Children's Story & Lord's Prayer:

Children's Hymn: VU 289 "It Only Takes a Spark"

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
 once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
 are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
 once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where
 you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
 I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on. **

Scripture: Acts 2: 1 – 21 Video

Reflection: "The Spirit Comes"

Today is Pentecost Sunday. Today we celebrate God's life-giving spirit poured out abundantly on the community of disciples. Rich images of wind and fire surround the proclamation of God's power in words that all can understand. The Spirit's blessing extends community to all; through diverse persons and gives gifts for the common good.

In Acts 2 we can see the complexity of the activity of the Spirit in its arrival. Commentators today continue to discuss what might have happened at the first Pentecost. Did people hear their own language in a society where nearly everyone understood the languages of Aramaic or Greek? Was it the phenomenon of speaking in tongues? Or was it that people came together and understood the good news in a vital and Spirit-inspired way?

Pentecost does not happen on its own. Pentecost connects with the Hebrew Scriptures and links the events of Pentecost with the Hebrew “Feast of Weeks,” which is 50 days after the Passover that commemorates the giving of the Law to Moses. The Christian church celebrates Pentecost as the day of giving of the Spirit – its like we have received the Christian law. The Christian church celebrates the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.

So it looks like the disciples are back in Jerusalem, gathered all in one place. From a week after Jesus’ resurrection, the disciples have gone back to Nazareth and fishing in the Sea of Galilee (also known as Lake Tiberias). In John 21, Jesus appears to Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John and two other disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where they share bread and fish. It may have been that they traveled back to Jerusalem for the “Feast of Weeks”.

Acts tells us that, “Many religious Jews from every country of the world, were living in Jerusalem, and when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages”.

In Acts, the Spirit is instrumental in the birth of the church, the continuing Body of Christ on Earth. As well as connecting with the Law and Hebrew practice, Peter quotes from Joel, validating this Pentecost experience by relating it to an event foretold by the prophet, when God’s activity in the world would be vindicated. Pentecost can also be seen as a reversal of the Tower of Babel story, where people were divided by language differences and the inability to understand each other – today they can understand each other.

How do we interpret the details of this vibrant account of the Spirit’s coming? For any new experience, words elude us. How can we describe something new and unexpected yet totally real and life-changing?

On that day of Pentecost - all hear about God’s deeds of power. Some wonder what the words of testimony mean. Others wonder if the disciples are drunk. Even the Spirit does not guarantee agreement. In Hebrew, the word for “hear” also means

“obey.” The gift of the Spirit at Pentecost unleashes the Spirit’s power in the disciples, power that strengthens faithful living and witness - Power that sends them out into the world to be the Church of Christ. Today the Holy Spirit continues to send us out into the world to be the Church of Christ. The conclusion to the story of Pentecost is yet to be written, as generation after generation is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

With the Spirit’s gifts come responsibilities to employ them for the common good. The gifts may be given to you, but you are to share them with everyone. On this Pentecost Sunday, let us celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that blesses each child of God and all Creation. This Spirit, which sustained Jesus in the wilderness, makes possible our journey as disciples.

The outpouring of the Spirit seems to be on the entire community - rather than just the close-knit group of disciples. Even today, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit benefits all, including God’s creation. The Holy Spirit weaves communities and Creation into a common life. And we get to be a part of the abundance and exuberance of God’s Spirit.

Over the last eight weeks since Easter, we in the Church have been looking and touching to see how real Resurrection can be. Pentecost invites us to embrace joy and delight in the things we can’t understand but feel in the movement of fire, wind, water, and bodies.

We now enter into the Season after Pentecost, which stretches ahead of us for almost half a year – right to the Season of Advent. This gives us lots of time and space to explore more about the coming of the Spirit in our lives and what it means to continue the ministry of Jesus.

In our baptism, we recreate the ritual of anointing with water and oil, and those words of tradition for Baptism. In this ritual, we trust we are allowing the thin place where the Holy Spirit can come into the child’s life (or adult’s life), and baptize them with the fire of the Holy Spirit, and the gift of life-giving water.

Today on Pentecost Sunday, we continue to use the traditional Christian tools of prayer, listen, discernment and work to live out our baptism fire. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 382 “Breathe on Me, Breath...”

Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,

that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity. **

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: Thank You for all your gifts. Your gifts of time, talent, skills, prayers and money. All of these gifts added together, makes us the Church. We as givers are so blessed we can give. May those who receive - also know they are blessed. Thank you for being the church!

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: God who is in the spirit of Pentecost, you have given us so much: Christ to inspire us, your Spirit to enable us, your love to support us; and so we bring these offerings so others may be inspired, enabled, and supported. Amen.

Chorus to Prayer: MV 121 "Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Pastoral Prayer:

Closing Hymn: B 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

Come and find the quiet centre

in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare! **

Benediction:

Eric: As we go forth from this place, let us go to love and serve wherever the Spirit leads us, now and forever more!

Closing Hymn: VU 884 "You Shall Go Out With Joy"

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands

(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

Amen, Amen, Amen. (5 Part Amen) X2

Postlude: – 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:

**Carol
Cheryl
Susan
Barb
Margie
Marcus
Ingrid
Jerry**

**Larry
Kerigan
Ken
Natalie
Ruth
Dave
Marj**

**Sue
Evelyn**

**Richard and Evelyn
Elaine**

**Gary
Janet
Tracey
Abby
David
Cleveland Family**