



Sunset United Church

May 23rd 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)



Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory, is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements.

Centering Music

Lighting the Christ and Affirming Candles*

Hymn: MV# 14 Where Two or Three are Gathered **^

*Where two or three
are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.*

Call to Worship^:

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place”

This Pentecost, our hearts are together, even though we are apart.

“Suddenly, a sound like a gale-force wind filled the whole house where they were sitting.”

This Pentecost, may God’s Spirit fill our homes and meet us where we are.

“Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks.”

This Pentecost, we proclaim that God’s hope, peace, joy and love are more contagious than any virus could be!

“And they started speaking as the Spirit enabled them.”

With one heart and voice this Pentecost, let us worship God!

Opening Prayer**:

Holy One,

For all the ways you speak to us –

In rushing winds

In dancing flames,

In words we understand,

And in ways that we don’t,

We give you thanks.

As we worship,

Be the wind in the trees,

Be the air that we breathe,

And give us the courage

To speak your love,

Everywhere we go.

Amen

1. *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.*

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.*

2. *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.*

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.*

3. *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 through your people on the rush of the Spirit,*

*Spirit of gentleness,
Blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.*

4. 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.

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.*

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

You call us to be your voices in the world

And we stay silent.

You call us to be your hands in this world

And we keep them hidden.

You call us to be your feet in this world

And we go our own way.

When we meet those who are doubting,

And say nothing,

Forgive us.

When we meet those who need your touch

And do nothing,

Forgive us.

When we are called to take up your cross

And carry nothing,

Forgive us.
Breathe life into these bones
Bring freedom to these lives
That we might declare
With heart and soul and voice,
That you are our God, now and always.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

Scripture: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Sharing the Story

Hymn: MV#23 Come, O Holy Spirit



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!*

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!

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!

I said a-come, come, come in Jesus' name!

Take our hearts by storm.

All the world lies open: Pentecost is now!

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: 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!

Scripture: Acts 1: 1-11

Reflection

Special Music

Wind Prayers for the World

Hymn: MV#150 Spirit God, Be our Breath

^^**

1. *Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...
Spirit God, be our song.*
2. *Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.*
3. *Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.*
4. *Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...
Spirit God, be our song.*

Benediction

Amen

Postlude



*Words by Rev. Penny Nelson, Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, permission to use given by author.

** adapted from a prayer written by Thom Shuman,

Lectionary Liturgies Blog, found on www.re-worship.blogspot.com

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