

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY - May 28, 2023 – 10 am**

\* *The live service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.*

**Gathering Music: Revival – Robin Mark**

BCUC band & UP group leading today!

*\*indicates stand as able*

**\* Hymn: River - More Voices #3**

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|--|--|
| 1. River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue,<br>River from a mountain high.<br>River, as you do what rivers do,<br>River, draw the Spirit nigh.              | 3. Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r,<br>Water, strength and life you give.<br>Water, as I travel with each hour.<br>Water, help my body live.         |
| 2. Spirit, come-a-down to the river-side,<br>Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.<br>Spirit, I am free for you to guide,<br>Spirit, pray that I be taught! | 4. River, flow-a-down where you ran before,<br>River, source of clearer view.<br>River, as I walk your rocky shore,<br>River, (see my journey through)... (3x) |

**Lighting of Christ Candle:**

Adapted from Flaming Love by Noah

Acolytes:

We gather here and now to rediscover fire-

Love's bright beginning in time and space-flaming forth now in us.

As we light this Christ candle, may the thoughts of our hearts become love's flames,

tongues of forgiveness, a proclamation that the world is ablaze with your glory, declaring the good news.

**Sung Response: O Let the Power Fall on Me - More Voices #13**

O let the power fall on me, my Lord, let the power fall on me.

O let the power from heaven fall on me, let the power fall on me.

For we want justice and truth and love, my Lord, we want justice and truth and love (2x)

**Welcome & Centering for Worship:**

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Good Morning! On this day of Pentecost it feels like a new wind is blowing through our sanctuary – as our youth group leads us in worship!

What a blessing it is to have their enthusiasm and creativity ignite our spirits today!

Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation.

announcements...EOORC meeting ...Property survey ... June 11 Sunday School Outdoor Picnic service

Chipembi visit and Camp Chipembi -meeting after church, Sponsor a child

Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves for worship.

May the Spirit fill this place and time as we share our prayers, our songs, and our praise.

**Call to Gather: (Responsively)**

*Adapted from David Sparks, Summerland B.C.*

We celebrate the birthday of the Christian church; we celebrate Pentecost.

**We celebrate with surprise.**

We can hardly believe that the Holy Spirit is with us.

**We celebrate with enthusiasm.**

In song, with shouts of joy, in carefree dance,

**We celebrate our thanks to God.**

We celebrate as different persons come together in Christ.

**Joined in faith community; neither gender nor status, neither wealth nor poverty, neither racial origin nor state of health separates us.**

We celebrate with the saints of all the ages. Time is swept away!

**Those who have gone before us, those who are with us and those who will come after us join in this celebration of the church's birthday.**

Come, let us celebrate and worship God.

***Prayer of Approach:*** (*Repeat after me*) (Richard Bott, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2015. Used with permission.)

With the beat of a wild wing                      (*clap hands together*)

With the rush of a mighty wind                (*rub hands together, building friction*)

With the Pentecost flame                        (*place hot palm against forehead*)

Touch us, Holy Spirit!                            (*Open and cross hands, linking thumbs, so hands become a bird*)

Love us into being, Spirit of God!            (*Bird flies one way*)

Love us into wholeness, Spirit of Wisdom! (*Bird flies another way*)

Love us into newness, Spirit of Christ! (*Bird flies straight up and hands undo, arms opening in praise*)

Maranatha! Allelujah! May it ever be!        Amen.

**\* *Special Music: Joy!* – traditional arr. Amy Grant**

1. I've got the joy (joy), joy (joy), joy (joy)! (3x)

*Refrain*

Down in my heart (clap, clap)                Down in my heart (clap, clap)

Down in my heart to stay, Down in my heart to ... *repeat*                ...stay.

2. I've got the love...    3. I've got the light...    4. I've got the joy!

***Time for the Young at Heart***

*The Prayer of Jesus / The Lord's Prayer (Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory,**

**Forever and ever, Amen.**

***Song: Thy Word* – Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith**

***Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)*** Beth W Johnston, Hansport P.C., Hansport NS Reader:

We give you thanks, God of sacred story, for your abundant love and the witness to it that can be found in the stories recorded in the scriptures. Open us to the winds of your Spirit, which blow through these words and take our thoughts and visions to new heights. Amen

***The Gospel Reading:*** Acts 2 :1-21 (NRSV) **The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is

it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

**Peter Addresses the Crowd** <sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews<sup>[a]</sup> and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

<sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.

<sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘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. <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

May these words renew us and give us assurance of hope in this time and in this place. **Thanks be to God!**

**Ministry of Music: P-E-N-T-E-C-O-S-T! – Natalie Sleeth**

Bell Canto

**Sermon:** Elizabeth Ducette

**Prayers of the People:** Tricia Challoner, Norquay UC, Norquay SK

Dear God, we live in a world that does not listen for the Holy Spirit. We live in a world that is troubled, **a world of fear, scarcity, and violence, a world of abuse, addiction and abandonment.**

The Holy Spirit tells us to love others as you love us.

**We pray for the courage to show others we love them.**

The Holy Spirit tells us that the world will hate us.

**We pray for the integrity to defy the world’s values.**

The Holy Spirit tells us to give unselfishly.

**We pray for the strength to deny ourselves for the good of others.**

The Holy Spirit is God’s presence in us.

**We are God’s presence in the world.**

May we bring God’s peace and comfort to those who are sick or in hospital, to those who are mourning loss, to those who are lonely or depressed, to those we name aloud or in our hearts. (*a time of silence*)

May others know we are disciples of Jesus by our love of neighbour.

**May we offer God’s love, compassion, and grace to all.**

**May the Holy Spirit inspire us to live Christ’s commandment, Amen**

**Musical Offering: Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives – More Voices #6**

*Ostinato Refrain:* Holy Spirit, come into our lives

Holy Spirit, make us truly wise. (*continuously*)

2 Give us a spirit of courage, And judgement that is wise

Give us a spirit of rev’rence Of wonder and of awe.

1 Give us a spirit of wisdom, An understanding heart  
Give us a spirit of knowledge And lead us to the truth.

3 Spirit of love and compassion Give hope to all the poor  
Spirit of justice and mercy, Come open ev’ry door

**Invitation to Offer: Rev. Lorrie** (Frances Flook, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2016. Used with permission.)

God's spirit has given us life. God's Spirit has given us breath.

God's Spirit heals our wounds. God's Spirit strengthens our witness.

God's Spirit will one day guide us home. Let us give thanks for God's Spirit,

And offer our gifts and our lives in response. Let us join together in our morning offering.

You will find the offering plates on the narthex table. There are many additional ways you can financially support the work of the church – through PAR, by dropping into the office or by e-transfer.

Thank you for your continued love and support of Bells Corners United Church.

**\*Offertory Hymn: What Can I Do? - More Voices #191**

What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

**\*Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

God of wind and flame: set us on fire this morning as we celebrate the explosion of your Holy Spirit coming into the world on the Day of Pentecost! Remind us that the gift you gave that day was not just the gift to speak in different tongues, but also the gift of hearing and comprehension.

May your Holy Spirit keep us attuned to the voices all around us, to those who need us to be the bearers of your love and compassion, and may these gifts we give help us, through your church, meet those needs. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen

**\* Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (Souffle, vent doux du Saint-Esprit) - VU#375**

*Refrain (English):*

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

**1** Tu touchas la terre Esprit créateur  
Tu dressas les montagne,  
en gloire et splendeur;  
à travers les âges, tu crias à tous vents:  
“déployez vos ailes, sortez du néant.”

*Refrain (French):*

Souffle, vent doux du Saint-Esprit;  
Tu grâce me conduit hors du desert.  
Souffle, grand vent du Saint-Esprit,  
secoue notre apathie, vent, vent sur la mer.

**2** You swept through the desert,  
you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets  
to open their eyes. *Refrain:*

**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 wind. *Refrain:*

**4** You call from tomorrow,  
you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow  
all the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain:*

**\*Sending Forth:**

We have opened our hearts to God's Spirit on this day of Pentecost. As you go from this place, let your breath give life to others and to all of God's creations. Let God's Spirit breathe into you with goodness, and breathe out of you in love. With your every breath and with the breath of all that lives, we give praise to God. Amen

**\* Blessing: Tamara Connors (UP leader)**

**\* Departing: This is Not the End – Lisa Gungor & John Arndt**