

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
PENTECOST SUNDAY **May 19, 2024 – 10 am**

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

Gathering Music: MV 3 River, MV 13 Let the Power Fall on Me

**Indicates stand as able*

*** Hymn: Called by Earth and Sky** – More Voices #135

Refrain: 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.

1 Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Refrain: (French) Du-ciel et de la terre, Nous entendons l'appel'

Nous de-vons ché-rir l'univers, é-crin de vie, pré-cieuse et belle; du-ciel et de la terre.

2 Pré-cieux est l'air que l'on respire, libre est le vent;
Es-pirit qui souffle, viens nous in-struire, de grâ-ce nous com-blant. *Refrain: (French)*

3 Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song. *R*

4 - Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one. *R*

(Words & Music: Pat Mayberry, 2005; French trans.: David Fines, 2006, Arr. Margaret Stubington, 2005)

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: David Ducette

Richard Bott, Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2015. Used with permission.

When we heard his voice, **Our hearts burned within us!**

When the Spirit arrived – **It came as a bright flame!**

Let this light be our Christ light (the Christ candle is lit)

A moment of Pentecost, Carried with our lives! Allelulia!

Sung Response: This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine (3X)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Welcome & Centering for Worship: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Good morning! I welcome and greet you all on this Pentecost Sunday. May the Spirit move us all in this service of worship, planned and led by our young folks in the UP Group! This is an All-Ages service today, so the children will stay with us throughout the morning. The Nursery is open for those who feel the need to take the littlest ones out for a break, but please know that we enjoy the happy noises they bring. Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation. ...*announcements*...

Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves in the presence of God who continues to surprise and inspire us. Let us gather in worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) *David Sparks, Gathering, Pentecost 1 2015. Used with permission.*

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 matters in the least.**

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
Join us in this celebration of the church's birthday.**

Come, let us celebrate and worship God.

Prayer of Approach: (Repeat after me!)

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! Alleluia! May it ever be!

Special Music: PENTECOST - Bell Canto director: Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

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: Joy!

Prayer for Illumination: Mya Wightman Susan Lukey, *Gathering, Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.*

In humility, we earth creatures come, to hear your Word, O Holy God,

And to be stirred by the wisdom of your Spirit. Amen.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 104 - Voices United pg827 (Part 2) **Reader:** Fiona Toth

Sung Response: **Bless, O my soul, the Almighty who rules all creation.**

O God, how manifold are your works! **With Wisdom at your side you made them all;**

The earth is full of your creatures. R

There lies the great and mighty sea, Teeming with living things both great and small.

Upon it sail the ships, And there is Leviathan, the monster you made to play in it.

All these look to you to give them their food in due season.

What you give them, they gather up.

When you open your hand, you fill them with good things.

But when you hide your face they despair.

When you take away their breath, they die and return to dust.

But when you send out your spirit, they live again,

And you renew the face of the earth. R

May your glory, O God, endure forever.

May you rejoice, O God, in your works.

When you look at the earth it trembles,

When you touch the mountains they smoke.

I will sing to God as long as I live.

I will praise my God while I have being. R

The Gospel Reading: Acts 2:1-21 The Coming of the Holy Spirit New RSV Updated Edition

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 people 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.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, Fellow Jews 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.’

Hear the good news of love and hope in this time and in this place. **Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: Praise the Mother, praise the Father too!

Sermon: “Mother Tongue of Earth” Noah Berard

Wendy Jean MacLean, Gathering Pentecost 1 2024. Used with permission.

Prayers of the People (Responsively): Mya Wightman

Tricia Challoner, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021. Used with permission.

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 terrorism, sexism, and racism

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 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: Let's Go Out

Bell Canto director: Erin Berard

Invitation to Offer: David Ducette and Calliyanna Fowler

We are invited to share our gifts of time, talents and resources as expressions of our gratitude to God's blessings. 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:(Responsively)** David Ducette and Calliyanna Fowler

We have the spirit. We know that God will bless our gifts to this church:

The gifts that make pastoral care and new friendships possible,

The gifts that make worship a reality each Sunday.

The prayer space in which God may be heard and may listen,

The singing of well-loved hymns and new songs as an uplift for our spirits,

The insights from the scriptures as guide and inspiration.

We have God's life-giving, life sustaining Holy Spirit.

We have the Spirit. We know that God will bless our gifts to this church:

The gifts that link us to other churches in this area and across the country,

The gifts that enable ministers to be trained and to serve the church,

The gifts that enable the needs of people throughout the world

to be met through the Mission and Service Fund.

We have the Spirit. **God be praised! Amen.**

***Song: Dance with the Spirit** – More Voices #156

(Words and Music: Jim Strathdee, 1995)

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',

Walk (Move, Sing, Dance) with the Spirit throughout the long day.

Work and hope for the new life a-bornin', listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

***Sending Forth:** Mya Wightman *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.*

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 God's creation.

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, Give praise to God. Amen.

Sung Blessing: Travel On, Travel On – Voices United #647

(Words & Music: Sydney Carter, 1969)

Travel on, travel on, there's a Spirit that is growing, The Spirit grow like flowers night and day.

Travel on, travel on, with the Spirit that is growing; the Spirit will be with us all the way 2x