# Welcome to The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge Woodhouse United Church and Grace United Church Worship From Home Service Sunday, May 23, 2021









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# Pentecost Sunday We Gather to Worship

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### Survey

**Joke** - On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back,

the ten the monkey gave back,

and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves.

For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family.

For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.

And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch...

#### Call to Worship

All creatures wait for their food in season.

You give it to them. They are satisfied.

#### Let the glory of the Lord endure forever.

You take their breath; they expire.

You give them breath; they are created.

You renew the face of the earth.

#### Let the glory of the Lord endure forever.

God causes the earth to tremble,

the mountains to smoke.

# Let the glory of the Lord endure forever.

Let us sing to the Lord as long as we are alive.

Sing praises!

Let sin and wickedness be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, Praise the Lord.

#### Let the glory of the Lord endure forever.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Elizabeth Stewart, St Paul's U.C., Burns Lake, B.C.

# Hymn – VU #373 As Comes the Breath of Spring SH 1 #6

As comes the breath of spring with light and mirth and song, so does your Spirit bring new days brave, free, and strong.

You come with thrill of life to chase hence winter's breath, to hush to peace the strife of sin that ends in death.

You come like dawning day with flaming truth and love, to chase all glooms away, to brace our wills to prove

how wise, how good to choose the truth and its brave fight, to prize it, win or lose, and live on your delight. You come like songs at morn that fill the earth with joy, till we, in Christ newborn, new strength in praise employ.

You come to rouse the heart from drifting to despair, through high hopes to impart life with an ampler air.

You breathe and there is health; you move and there is power; you whisper, there is wealth of love, your richest dower.

Your presence is to us like summer in the soul; your joy shines forth and then life blossoms to its goal.

#### **Opening Prayer**

Great Spirit, comforting wing, soaring heart:

Open us to the wonder of your presence
in wind, in rain, in soil, and in sky.
In each ray of sunshine, in each shining star,
in each waving branch
may we recognize you reaching out to us
with your invitation to rejoice in your glory.
Christ of the changing seasons,
Christ of the revolving earth,
Christ of the cosmos:
Change us, turn us,
expand our awareness and bless us,
as you bless all creation with the joy of your heart.
May our worship be a blessing. Amen.

Wendy MacLean, Christ U.C., Lyn, Ont.

#### We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does a flame remind you of God?

# Hymn - MV #150 Spirit God, Be Our Breath SH 4 #13

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.

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.

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.

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.

# **Prayer for Illumination**

On this Pentecost Sunday, O God, may your Holy Spirit guide our understanding of the scriptures today. Amen.

# Scripture Psalm 104:24-34 Our place in creation

You made everything, God

You imagine it, and it happens.

You breathe on it and give it life.

The oceans are the amniotic fluid of the earth.

In your womb we share our origins.

We like to think we look after ourselves with trade and commerce,

with boats that plow the seas,

with trains and trucks and planes.

We braid our lives with busy-ness.

Yet everything owes its life to you;

everything continues to depend on you for life.

You bring forth food from the earth, from the seas, from the skies.

By your bounty all are fed.

If you withdraw your favor, we all perish.

Without you, we are no more than a collection of chemicals.

But you put your breath of life into us.

With each new generation, you renew us.

Our living bodies reveal your spirit.

May our living be acceptable to you, our Lord.

You create the volcanoes and the earthquakes, the hurricanes and glaciers;

you shape the earth itself.

Yet you care about us.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude.

This is our understanding – may it meet with your approval.

#### Acts 2:1-21

# The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

**2** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native

language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

#### Peter Addresses the Crowd

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

- <sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,
  - I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
- <sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.
- <sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
- <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

# John 15:26-27; 16:4-15

# The Work of the Holy Spirit

26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I

was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

#### Message

Pentecost, known as Shavuot in Hebrew, is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the single most important event in Israel's history: the giving of the Torah (the first five books in the Hebrew Bible) to Moses at Mount Sinai. It is one of the three major Jewish festivals often called "pilgrim" festivals because all Jewish males were required to observe them at the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

More than 3,000 years ago, after leaving Egypt on the night of Passover, the Jews traveled to the Sinai desert. There, they experienced divine revelation as God gave the Jewish people His Law.

*Shavuot* is the culmination of the seven weeks between Passover and the giving of the Law. Indeed, the very term *Shavuot* means "weeks."

Since *Shavuot* occurs 50 days after the first day of Passover, it is sometimes known as Pentecost, which is a Greek word that means "fifty." Jesus' followers were in Jerusalem celebrating Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to them, and so today we celebrate Pentecost as the birth of the church. It is 50 days after Easter.

The two holidays, Passover and *Shavuot*, are linked by more than just their proximity. The Exodus from Egypt, which Passover celebrates, marked the

beginning of physical freedom for the Jewish people. But *Shavuot* is a reminder for the Jews that physical liberation was incomplete without the spiritual redemption represented by receiving God's law. (For us, Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit are our freedom and redemption.)

The earlier celebrations of *Shavuot* were more agricultural in nature. In ancient times, sheaves of barley (the winter crop) were brought to the Temple each day, starting on Passover until *Shavuot*, the beginning of the harvesting season 50 days later. Farmers looked forward to *Shavuot* with great anticipation.

When it finally arrived, the people would bring their first fruits to the Temple amid great pomp and ceremony. They rejoiced before God and thanked Him for their material blessings.

So that was the context of our reading from Acts this morning. That is why there were so many people from so many nations in Jerusalem on this day. We hear that the apostles, upon receiving the Holy Spirit, began to speak in other languages so they could be understood by people who were different from them. Well, today the Christian church can be found in every country in the world. It is the largest religion. Presumably, Jesus' teachings are available in every language.

Do you think that maybe it's time to focus our communication to non-Christians and non-practicing Christians in new ways. We should ask, "What would this person understand?" A friend of mine was serving communion one Christmas Eve and she had a young child come through the line. He was about seven years old and instead of saying "the body of Christ broken for you", she said, "This means Jesus loves you." He smiled and gave her the thumbs up. What she communicated was something he could better understand than "the body of Christ". Many churches are offering a meal to anyone who wants to join them. Some do it only once a week. Others offer more. To somebody who is hungry this is an important message of love and concern. The Holy Spirit has moved these congregations to reach out, to say, "This means Jesus loves you". I know that I have mentioned Church Out Serving in Simcoe before. But they impressed me so much that I want to give them all the attention that I can. What they have to say, what they communicate, is exactly the message that Jesus was trying to get through.

Maybe we don't have space or the money or the workers to start our own outreach. And maybe we do. That is for these congregations to open yourselves to the Holy Spirit to guide you. But if we *can't* establish our own

outreach, we *can* support the work of others. There are all sorts of organisations which do needed service. We can offer our time, our talent, and our treasure to them. I'm not suggesting that you redirect your congregational support. I'm suggesting that most of us can find a little extra to support these other programs.

Back to the subject of Pentecost...there are some who believe that you must be able to speak in tongues in order to truly be a follower of Jesus. I, obviously, don't believe that teaching. Firstly, I don't believe that it is anyone's right to judge the faith of another. That's up to God. As to the "tongues" themselves, I have no experience upon which to offer an opinion. But I do believe that it's important to communicate. We must keep in mind that we communicate with more than our words. On this Pentecost Sunday, the Sunday that we celebrate the birth of the church, may we give the church this gift: we will be open and welcome the Holy Spirit to guide us to wherever Jesus would want us to be.

Thank you, meegwetch, danke, merci, gracias.

#### Hymn – VU #382 Breathe On Me, Breath of God SH 1 #10

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.

#### We Respond to God's Word

#### Offering

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Come, Holy Spirit, set our hearts on fire!
Find the passion you have placed in our lives
and let it become the fire of transformation,
that refreshes, that refills, that renews,
not just for us, O God,
but so we might join with others, to live your love,
a love that transforms the world.
As Christ's Pentecost people,
we offer these gifts with generous spirits
for the loving transformation of this world.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Richard Bott, Vancouver, B.

#### Anthem - Let Us Break Bread Together SH 3 #11

#### Sacrament of Communion

Le Seigneur soit avec vous. (French: The Lord be with you.)

And also with you.

Ma-um-ul d'nop-i. (Korean: Lift up your hearts.)

#### We lift them to the Lord.

Kaatoototaylay Laysaa waysoo oowaamoomooloo.

(Bemba [Zambia]: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.)

# It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,

Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.

In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and your Word brought all things into being.

Through a burning bush,

you spoke to your prophets and your people.

With glowing coals you touched their lips,

that they might speak your word of truth and justice.

By fire and your Spirit,

you have guided us through the wilderness.

We give you thanks and praise,

O God of wind and word, power and peace.

Lover of all nations,

although we have so often betrayed your promise,

you have never left us nor forsaken us.

You sent us Jesus, your Gift of Grace, our Light and Flame.

You poured out your Spirit upon us,

to create, renew, inspire, that all might be made whole.

We bless you, for your Spirit wraps us in your presence,

drawing us closer in community.

And so it is that on this feast of Pentecost, we give you praise and thanks for your many gifts, joining with all your people that as one body we may proclaim your praise:

Holy, holy, holy God,

Power of life and love!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna through the ages!

Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

he shared food with followers and friends, with saints and sinners,

with crowds of thousands on the hillside, and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died,

he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith,

as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ.

We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labour.

We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people.

We remember Jesus' integrity unto death.

We remember the Easter hope of resurrection.

We remember the promise of compassion and justice.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon this offering of your church,

that we who eat and drink at Christ's table may share in his life.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth, and make it your new creation.

Gather your church together from the ends of the earth into your realm where peace and justice are revealed—

that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised.

At this time, we also remember all those with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . . all who are ill or alone . . . all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . . all whom the world counts as last and least . . . . We pray for your church and its varied ministries . . . for the nations as they strive for peace and justice . . . for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share . . . for our families and friends . . . . Help us to love as Christ loved.

Knowing our own weakness, may we stand with all who stumble. Sharing in his suffering, may we remember all who suffer.

Held in his love, may we embrace all whom the world denies.

Rejoicing in his forgiveness, may we forgive all who sin against us.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, and in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** With Jesus, we pray together, saying:

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.!

The bread that we break

is our sharing in the life of Christ.

The cup for which we give thanks

is our sharing in the life of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God, all of whom are invited to receive.

# **Prayer After Communion**

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,

in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

#### **Minute for Mission**

Adults with a developmental disability living in these services have been hit particularly hard by COVID19. Restrictions provided by the Provincial government meant people were not able to attend any of their regular

activities and connect with people that are important to them. People were not even able to see their families and isolation has been a real challenge. When M&O committee contacted Stella Barker, the Executive Director to see how we could help, Stella said "These are such difficult times for people involved with our services and our employees as the anxiety and uncertainty of knowing when the virus will strike is very difficult to manage. The folks involved in our services are having a hard time with isolation and not being able to see their families. Most people involved in NACL services live at or below the poverty line and so covering their day to day living costs is an ongoing difficulty. The increasing cost of general items during the pandemic has really taken a toll on people's ability to afford basic needs. This leaves very little room for items like household goods that most of us take for granted"

After a quick query of NACL staff, the idea of providing much needed household goods was brought forward. The first step was to provide sets of pots and pans and so 5 sets of good quality pots and pans were purchased (with a steep discount on sale!). Bath towels were also high on the list and with most home locations having 4 residents, a total of 60 bath towels were needed. Last but not least, 14 sets of sheets were identified as high priority.

All in all, the M&O committee provided \$1942 for the NACL program; funding for this project came from the TLC fund which is earmarked to help people in need. Stella Barker said people were thrilled to have the new household supplies and it gave a much-needed lift to what has been a very challenging year.

M&O is now working with HN Women's Services and we will providing funding to help their clients buy essential items. They have also identified a need to have outdoor play equipment for the children staying at the shelter who little or no access to play equipment. Specifically, they are looking for the following items:

Baby pack and play combo- playpen/crib combo Scooters and helmets Volleyball net and ball Tennis rackets and balls

Jane Scheel, Executive Director said: "We are trying to have activities for kids

and Moms to use on the Women's Shelter property because their mobility is so limited as a result of the pandemic."

If you have any of these items in good used condition or would like to donate funds to help purchase these items, please call Jim Dawson at 519 583 3328.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

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 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.

Tricia Challoner, Norquay U.C., Norquay, Sask.

# We Take Christ's Message Into the World

Hymn MV #30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker SH 2 #19

It's a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.

It's a song of praise to the Maker,

the gray whale sings in the sea,

And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar. It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore, And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover, the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song,
And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation;
It's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

# **Benediction and Commissioning**

Celebrate in the Spirit and God's joy becomes your joy, God's purpose becomes your purpose, God's compassion becomes your compassion, and God's love finds direction and fulfillment in your loving words and actions.

Don't hold back! Celebrate in the Spirit!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Our office is operating remotely, feel free to call and leave a message or send an email and we will respond during office hours.

519-583-0342

graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

For Pastoral Care, please contact

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kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca

# **Announcement reminder**

Please submit announcements by <u>noon Tuesday</u> for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Thank you!

# Stewardship Seconds

# **Pentecost Sunday**

Praise the Lord! From God's fullness we have all received grace upon grace.