

# St. Andrews United Church



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Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

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Merna Edison/Thomas Bee

May 28th, 2023

# **WE GATHER**

## **Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and Welcome to Pentecost! The birth of the Church. The day the Holy Spirit came to move, swirl, and dance among us. Reminding us that the Creator is always present: encouraging, luring, and inspiring us to be the loving people God created us to be. May the Holy Spirit stir us during this hour to walk humbly, embrace love, and do justice in our unjust and fragmented world. Let us worship..

## **Acknowledging Our Kinship**

As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

## **Candle Lighting**

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world.  
**May its light brighten our spirits, and may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.**

## **Call to Worship**

The Spirit descends like a dove,  
bringing peace to unite the world  
in a just and caring community.

**The Spirit comes like a breath,  
bringing life to renew the people of God.**

The Spirit spreads like fire,  
bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

**Spirit of the living God,  
come to us and transform our lives by your power.**

## **Gathering Hymn - Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness - 375 VU**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Lord of patience and persistence, we live in a broken and shattered world. All around us we see great evidence of hatred and alienation. We cannot help but observe the alienation of your people from each other. We create devices to separate rather than unite; to divide rather than come together in hope. Forgive us for our sins. These sins cause such division and hurt. Remind us today that the disciples, too, lived in a fearful world and that one day you came to them, as they sat huddled in fear, and you empowered them. You gave them hearts of courage and faith. Please bring to us the same hearts that we may serve you well, bringing peace and hope to our world. In the name of Christ, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

### **Words of Assurance**

Dear ones, fear no more! The power of God's Holy Spirit has set us free from the prison of doubt and fear! Now is the time to shine with the light of God's love, given to you by Jesus Christ. AMEN.

### **Young at Heart**

**Solo** - *I'll Fly Away* - sung by Belinda Bainbridge

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Acts 2: 1-21**

**Meditation** - *The Holy Spirit or Casper the Friendly Ghost*

**Hymn - Breathe On Me, Breath of God - 382 VU**

# **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

## **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offering Hymn - Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow - 541 VU**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

### **Offering Prayer**

Lord of wind and fire, of hope and mercy, we ask that you bless these gifts today. We praise you for them and ask that you cause them to be put to work for your kingdom. In Christ's name, we pray. AMEN

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Flaming God of Pentecost,  
Let us speak in tongues of comfort  
to those weeping over the bodies of their loved ones  
shot by troubled gunmen, killed in border clashes, dying from disease.

Let us speak in tongues of courage  
to those living in fear  
of the next shooting, the next bomb, the illness that threatens.

Let us speak in tongues of condemnation  
against laws and policies that promote violence,  
prioritizing the preferences of some over the lives of others.

Let us speak in tongues of care  
for the most vulnerable in our world—  
human beings, animals, and ecosystems.

Let us speak in tongues of love  
for you and for your people,  
that Your language might be our language.

And when our tongues are still,  
when we have no words to speak,  
let our hearts burn with your fire,  
let our ears hear your words in our own native tongue,  
let our skin feel the wind of your Spirit—  
a mighty wind, blowing where it will.  
Amen

## **The Lord's Prayer (Sung) 959 VU**

### **Communion Service**

#### **Invitation**

Come to this table  
Where bread and cup are transformed by the Spirit of God  
Into a meal of love and grace  
A supper of visions and dreams  
A table where all souls are welcome.

#### **Prayer of Communion**

Loving God  
Whose Divine Lungs exhaled the Spirit into our World  
Your breath continues to transform our world  
From the still to the stirring.  
Before the earth was formed  
The Spirit of God swirled through voids and shadows.  
As humans were created  
The air of God filled the lungs of Adam  
And the soul of Eve.

This Divine Air  
Continues to fill us up  
When our bones are dry and spirits are sluggish.  
On this day of Pentecost  
When we celebrate the breath of the Spirit coming upon the disciples  
We invite the Spirit to come upon these elements.  
God of winds, pour out your Spirit to make the elements come alive for us.  
Make this meal awaken our sleepy hearts and stagnant souls.  
May this time of eating and drinking be one  
where we stir from our sadness and rise from our hopelessness.  
May we begin to celebrate visions  
And animate the dreams that have only been alive in our minds.  
As we share this meal,  
Let us remember our siblings in faith who came to this table  
In decades and centuries past  
And our children who will surround this table in the future.  
Each generation uniquely celebrates your presence, Spirit of Life.  
The night before Jesus died was a solemn time around the table.  
Breaking bread. Drinking from the cup.  
Jesus asking to remember him in our eating and drinking.  
There was a time to mourn followed by a time to dance.  
After the day of resurrection  
The disciples ate on the beach with the risen Christ  
Celebrating new life, new hope, new vitality.  
On this Pentecost, as we come to the table,  
let us celebrate the Spirit of Resurrection  
And the promise of a needed second-wind in our own lives.  
Let us partake of this celebratory meal together.

## **Distribution of Elements**

## **Prayer After Communion**

Spirit of God, who fed the multitudes, provided the manna in the wilderness, and blessed the elements, we give great thanks for the meal eaten and the company surrounding us.

Inspire us as we move forward this day and encourage us to transform our dreams into reality. Amen.

## **Hymn - Go to the World - 420 VU**

## **Benediction**

Go out into God's world filled with the spark of the Holy Spirit. Let love guide your actions. Listen for the Spirit of Truth. Spread the peace of Christ and remind everyone you meet that each one is a beloved child of God. Amen.

# Announcements

## Upcoming

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Euchre 1:30pm



The flowers today are placed in celebration of Gladys (Gowdey) Payson's birthday, May 27th and Ron Payson's birthday, May 30th.



**St. Andrews United Church is currently looking for a new custodian. This is a part time position with flexible hours. Full Job description is available in the office.**



**Fresh Start Baby bottles are ready for pick up. Fill them and Return to the church by Father's Day - June 18th.**