***St. Andrews***

***United Church***

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**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Merna Edison**

**/Brian and Lynn Sloan**

**June 8th 2025**

**Pentecost**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**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**

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!
**P: For God has done wondrous things for us.**L: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.
**P: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!**L: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.
**P: Help us to boldly proclaim Christ Risen. AMEN.**

**Gathering Hymn - Let All Things Now Living - 242 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

Lord God, you know us too well. You know that we would be like the disciples following the crucifixion and even the resurrection. We would rather hide away and mourn, than proclaim the power of your love. The world is a difficult place. We fear so much. We want people to like us, and so we hold back on our proclamation of our faith. We don’t want to offend anyone. But your love and presence are not offensive. They are empowering and healing. Bring your holy fire upon us this day to ignite a spark of joy in our hearts and our voices. Bring the power of your rushing wind through our spirits that we may be turned in new directions for service and witness. We pray this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

**Words of Assurance:**
God’s awesome love is offered to you, even when you fear or are unsure of your faith. Know that God is with you. Be not afraid. Hallelujah!

**Young at Heart - Like the Rush of the Wind**

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

**We Listen for God’s Word**

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

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation - Unity in Diversity**

**Hymn - Spirit of Life - 381 VU**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn**

**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 for the Church**

Holy One, We are your church, your people gathered.

Since the beginning, you have been with us.

In the dry and desert-like moments,

when decline and death surround us,

you teach us that we need you and to trust in you.

When these truths have been remembered, your

people have flourished.

We have been together as

The United Church of Canada for 100 years.

On this historic threshold,

we remember yet again

that we live and move and

have our being in you.

It is time to dance with the Holy Spirit

as we move past this moment.

Empower us loving God,

to live by your Spirit,

unafraid of where She is taking us.

Now is the time to dig deep in our faith!

To dare to be your resurrection people,

for Christ’s Way is our way.

Let us be alive by your Spirit’s power!

Awaken us to your moving among us even now

so we can boldly follow your call into tomorrow.

AMEN!

**The New Creed - 918 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.

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

On Pentecost, the gift of God’s Spirit was given

freely to all who longed to receive it. On this day

of Pentecost, we welcome all those who long

to follow in the Way of Jesus to share in this

sacrament of Communion.

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The Spirit is among us!

Let us give thanks to God

in memory and in hope.

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Gracious God,

for you grace this world with life and

light and love.

In the beginning, your Spirit moved

across the deep waters

like the northern lights dance

across the skies at night.

Amid emptiness and chaos,

you sought connection,

and so, you created day and night,

skies and seas, plants and trees

the stars in the sky,

the animals that fly and the animals that swim,

the animals that walk and swing and sing,

and you called us all good.

And over time, your Spirit continued to call forth

wisdom and courage for your people:

Filled with the Spirit, Miriam danced for joy on the

shores of the Red Sea

To Elijah, the Spirit was heard in the still, small

voice after the fire and wind.

Ezekiel witnessed your Spirit breathe life into a

people without hope.

To the prophet Joel, you promised:

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your children will prophesy,

your elders will dream dreams,

your youth will see visions.

And on my servants, people of all genders and

races,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Yet we turned from you,

Afraid and uncertain of what you would do.

Yet you continued to pursue us in love,

coming to Mary who boldly said yes

and so, you brought that Spirit

into the world once more,

alive and embodied in Jesus, the Christ.

He lived with the Spirit’s

deep passion and wisdom.

He boldly shared the Spirit’s joy and compassion.

He dared to dream that your kin-dom

will come on earth,

as it is in heaven,

and he called us all to follow in his Way.

And, on Pentecost, his followers received your

Spirit, too.

They proclaimed your goodness in every

language,

Living in the Spirit’s ways drew attention,

both from those who sought to follow and those

who were afraid.

And so, we remember the courage and vision

Jesus shared with his friends

on the night he was betrayed.

During supper, Jesus took a loaf of bread,

gave thanks to God,

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take this bread and eat.

This is my body which is given for you.

Whenever you eat,

do this in remembrance of me.”

And after supper, he took the cup of blessing,

He gave thanks to God, and shared it with his

disciples, saying:

“Take this cup and drink.

This cup is God’s promise,

shared in my life.

Whenever you drink it,

remember me.”

Loving God, we rejoice in the life of Jesus Christ,

and in the gift of your Spirit

that is poured out upon us.

We now open ourselves to your

power and presence

so that our lives may proclaim

the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again!**

Pour out your Spirit once more upon us, O God,

and upon these gifts of bread and cup

so that we might witness your Spirit in action

and join in Christ’s life,

proclaiming your joy and your Reign.

On this Pentecost day, we pray:

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

**Amen!**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Distribution of Elements**

**Prayer After Communion**

**In your grace and by your Spirit we have been fed at this table,**

**brought into communion with you and each other.**

**May this banquet so inspire us to love as we have been loved,**

**feed as we have been fed, and to welcome all as Christ has welcomed us. In this way, we will witness your reign on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God - 236 VU**

**Benediction**

Awesome Spirit! You have inspired us this day to be witnesses to God’s love and power. Help us to be joyful in our service and strong in our faith for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we go in peace, with God’s peace in our hearts. AMEN.