

**Sunday Worship Service – May 24, 2026**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

**Words of Welcome by Pastor**

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement**

**Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings\***

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In the book of Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. In the reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Paul reminds us that though we each have different gifts, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples, empowering them to forgive. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's love to all the world.

**Confession and Forgiveness\***

*Gracious and Almighty God,*

**we have often failed to be receptive to the power of your Holy Spirit. Fearful of true unity, our words have often confused rather than clarified, hurt rather than healed, and divided rather than united your people. In your never failing grace, bestow the wondrous gift of your Spirit among us. Forgive us when we turn away from oneness and wholeness, and save us from the terrible toll of apathy and neglect.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

There is no fear, confusion, hurt, or division that cannot be bridged by God's Holy Spirit or that cannot be transformed in the name of Jesus Christ. The generous outpouring of the Spirit moves through the people of God like an everflowing river and bringing forth unity. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**#400 Gathering Hymn "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" (v.1,3-4)**

- 1. God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend!  
 Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send!  
 Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross,**

**there with Christ to bear the cross!**

3. **God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!  
Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free!  
Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord,  
make us one in Christ our Lord!**
  
4. **God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness!  
Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress.  
Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom's work,  
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **A Litany for Pentecost**

Spirit of God, flickering over our heads,  
illuminating our faces, inspiring our thoughts,  
**give us now, words of joy and praise.**

Spirit of God, filling our hearts with hope,  
steadying our nerves with peace, comforting our lives with love,  
**give us now, words of joy and praise.**

Spirit of God, come to us now – surging through the darkness of our lives,  
sweeping over our weariness – so that, in this time of Pentecost,  
the sparkling light of faith, the rushing wind of hope and the joyful sound  
of praise may echo round the world, may echo in the church,  
and find their response in us.

**Spirit of God, give us now, words of joy and praise.**

### **Prayer of the Day\***

*O God,* **pour out your Holy Spirit once again,  
that the world may know the gifts and blessing of your power.  
Take away our confusion and grant us clarity of vision.  
Open our senses to the mystery and wonder of faith.  
Open our minds to the signs of hope you seek to share with us.  
We are indeed your church, called together in one place**

**for praise and thanksgiving.**

**Let your Holy Spirit fill this sanctuary and sanctify our lives. Amen.**

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

*In this reading from Acts we are reminded that Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke, the author of the Book of Acts portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

A reading from Acts, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter:

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?"

Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this!

Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning!

Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions.  
Your elders will dream dreams.  
Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in  
those days, and they will prophesy.  
I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the  
earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.  
The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed  
into blood, before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.  
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (CEB)*

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

*In this reading, Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter:

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;  
and there are different ministries and the same Lord;  
and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of  
them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for  
the common good. A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person,  
a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, faith to still  
another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit,  
performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another,  
the ability to tell spirits apart to another,  
different kinds of tongues to another, and the interpretation of the tongues  
to another. All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who  
gives what he wants to each person.

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts;

and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. (CEB)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “*Spirit of the Living God*”**

**Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me,  
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. (2x)**

**Gospel Reading: John 20:19-23**

*In the gospel reading, the risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

The holy gospel according to John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Then Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**#396 Hymn of the Day “*Spirit of Gentleness*” (verses 1-2,4)**

*Refrain:* **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. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,**

**then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:**

**“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”** *(Refrain)*

**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 their idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.** *(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)*

### **An Affirmation of Faith for Pentecost<sup>1</sup>**

We believe in a loving God, whose Word sustains our lives  
and the work of our hands in the world.

#### **God is Life.**

We believe in God’s Son amongst us, sowing the seed of life’s renewal.  
Jesus lived with the poor to show the meaning of love.

#### **Jesus Christ is Lord.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit of Life, making us one with God,  
renewing our strength with Her own.

#### **The Spirit is Love.**

John Harvey

### **The Gift of Yourself - Intercessions for Pentecost:<sup>2</sup>**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church,  
the world, and all in need. Prayer petitions will end with, “We praise you, O  
God,” and we respond by praying **“for your wonderful gift of yourself.”**

Spirit of the Living God, from Holy Wisdom brooding on the waters of  
creation to the Spirit with us now and enabling us to worship, you have  
been gently and powerfully at work in our history.

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<sup>1</sup> *Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*, Compilation © 2006 Ruth Burgess. Published by Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, Scotland. Used with permission. Names of the individual contributors to that collection are noted in the right hand margin.

<sup>2</sup> *Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*, Compilation © 2006 Ruth Burgess. Published by Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, Scotland. Used with permission. Names of the individual contributors to that collection are noted in the right hand margin.

We praise you, O God, **for your wonderful gift of yourself.**

Spirit of the Living God, breathing life into all that lives and loves, inspiring work and choices, guiding and molding, you are still gently and powerfully at work in our world.

We praise you, O God, **for your wonderful gift of yourself.**

Spirit of the Living God, from knitting us together in our mother's wombs to embracing us while we draw our last breaths, you are gently and powerfully at work in our lives.

We praise you, O God, **for your wonderful gift of yourself.**

Spirit of the Living God, we ask your hope for those living with chronic illness and those in hospital. We ask for your peace for those living with dementia and their caregivers. We ask for your comfort for those who mourn. We praise you, O God, **for your wonderful gift of yourself.**

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us, freshen us, renew us, open our eyes to the needful tasks and our own abilities to fulfil the work. Enable us to be identified as God's holy people by our love and joy, our peace and patience, our kindness and generosity, our faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. May we shine as lights in the world to the glory of God.

We praise you, O God, **for your wonderful gift of yourself.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Liz Knowles

## Sharing of the Peace

### Offering and Offering Prayer\*

*O God of all creation, we gather on this Pentecost Sunday to celebrate the outpouring of your love and the grace-filled gift of your Holy Spirit. As your Spirit moves among us and through us, encourage our generosity and thankfulness in the sharing of our tithes and offerings. We ask this in Jesus' name, whose promise of the Spirit fulfills our lives. Amen.*

### **Holy Communion for Pentecost<sup>3</sup>**

We celebrate the Divine Spirit, who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness.

**We praise you, Spirit.**

We celebrate the Divine Spirit, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through Jesus, made divine life available to all.

**We praise you, Spirit.**

We celebrate the Spirit, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Reign of God.

**We praise you, Spirit.**

And so, as we gather at this table,  
we recognise the Spirit's presence among us,  
and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence.

God, we come knowing that we depend on you for life and truth and love.

We come knowing that you welcome us with open and accepting arms.

We come ready to meet with you, and be changed by the encounter.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

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

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Spirit, as we share this bread and wine, let it be a sharing  
in Christ's life and presence; and may we embody your life, love, and  
presence in our homes and community. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-communion-liturgy-for-pentecost-sunday/>

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
 Amen.**

### **Communion Distribution**

#### **#403 Communion Hymn “*Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song*”**

- 1. Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,  
 like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:  
 come, Holy Spirit, come.**
- 2. To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the vine,  
 to the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:  
 come, Holy Spirit, come.**
- 3. With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
 with the pow'r to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:  
 come, Holy Spirit, come.**

### **Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after communion<sup>4</sup>**

Thank you, Divine Spirit, for this meal of love and forgiveness,  
 and for coming to us as we have shared it. May the love we find at this  
 table be reflected in our lives; may the strength we receive at this table  
 make us peacemakers and healers; and may the Spirit who fills us again at  
 this table lead us to be those who proclaim God’s love in every word we  
 speak and in everything we do. Amen.

### **Announcements**

#### **Benediction for Pentecost<sup>5</sup>**

As you enter a new week, may you experience God’s presence.  
 May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit  
 over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips,  
 over your hearts and your feelings and emotions

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<sup>4</sup> <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-communion-liturgy-for-pentecost-sunday/>

<sup>5</sup> posted on the Presbyterian Church of Canada website. <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

and your compassion for all others,  
and over your hands and your feet  
as you put into action all that God commands you.  
During this week,  
may the grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you; Amen.

**#399 Sending Hymn “O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”**

1. **O Holy Spirit, root of life, creator, cleanser of all things,  
anoint our wounds; awaken us with lustrous movement of your wings.**
2. **Eternal vigour, saving one, you free us by your living Word,  
becoming flesh to wear our pain, and all creation is restored.**
3. **O Holy Wisdom, soaring pow’r, encompass us with wings unfurled,  
and carry us, encircling all above, below, and through the world.**

**Sending**

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sources:**

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).

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