



Nelson United Church

## We Celebrate the Coming of the Spirit

Pentecost Sunday  
May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Introit

**Welcome and Announcements** We invite you to light a candle if you are able, and if you can, have a piece of bread and something to symbolize “wine” ready.

Please speak along where you see **bold print**.

### Opening Dialogue

It's Pentecost Day, the birthday of the universal church. Let's celebrate!

*When the day of Pentecost came there was a noise ... like a strong wind blowing.*

Wind to blow away the cobwebs of our tradition. Wind to freshen our faces and awaken us to the challenges of today. Wind to fill our sails and send us on a voyage of spiritual discovery.

Wind of the Spirit, blow strongly through the Church and enliven us with the breath of God.

*They saw ... tongues of fire ...*

Fire to burn away the rubbish in our lives. Fire for spiritual heat to 'strangely warm' our hearts. Fire to light a beacon of hope for the people in our communities.

Fire of the Spirit, blaze away in the Church and set us on fire for the Gospel.

*They heard the believers speaking in their own languages.*

Speaking in a way that people can understand. Speaking to real needs, having something to say on real issues. Speaking so that our neighbours want to listen.

Words of the Spirit, speak to us and through us, that we may preach the living Word.

*But others said: 'These people are drunk!'*

Perhaps they were: Drunk on the new wine of the Kin-Dom of God. High on the power of the Holy Spirit – celebrating the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit of God, inspire and excite us as we celebrate in worship, and empower the work and witness of your Church today. Amen

*When the Day of Pentecost Came.* by David Lemmon.

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**Hymn VU 198 "Come, O Spirit"**

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,  
come with Pentecostal power;  
give the church a stronger vision,  
help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation,  
Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,  
still the church is called to mission  
that God's love shall be made known.**

**We would raise our hallelujahs  
for the grace of yesteryears;  
for tomorrow's unknown pathway,  
hear, O God, our humble prayers.  
In the church's pilgrim journey  
you have led us all the way,  
still in presence move before us,  
fire by night and cloud by day.**

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,  
give us words of fire and flame.  
Help our feeble lips to praise you,  
glorify your holy name.  
God, all holy, Son and Spirit,  
three in one: what mystery!  
We would sing our loud hosannas  
now and through eternity.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Mysterious God,  
you rustle the trees  
and rattle my soul  
and put paid to my feelings of aloneness.**

**You tap a march  
up the spine of my being,  
crash into doubt  
and cast fear down  
where fear belongs.**

**The shadow of death  
is but a shadow,  
for life's spark is lit  
by your Spirit of love.**

**Amen.**

*Mysterious God.* by Alma Fritchley.  
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## Story

## Echo Prayer

### Song MV 23 "Come, O Holy Spirit"

**Come, O Holy Spirit, set the Church on fire;  
strike it as the lightning hits a posing spire.  
Burn away the structures and consume the sham  
of our holy systems: Come, in Jesus' name!**

Chorus:

**Come, come, come, in Jesus' name! Take our hearts by storm.  
All the world lies open: Pentecost is now!  
I said a-come, come, come, in Jesus' name! Take our hearts by storm.  
All the world lies open: Pentecost is now!**

**Blow away the cobwebs of our stubborn past.  
Come, send flying from us myths unfit to last.  
Wind of change, refresh us and disturb our calm;  
teach us what true love is, take our hearts by storm!** Chorus

**Free us from the babble of our Babel mind;  
spark in us a language all can understand.  
Lighten then our darkness, come and show us how  
all the world lies open: Pentecost is now!** Chorus

### Gospel Proclamation Acts 2:1-21

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**"Thanks be to God."**

### Sung Response VU 208 "Veni Sancte Spiritus"

(Sung through-out)

**Veni sancte, Spiritus.  
Veni sancte, Spiritus.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth  
with your glorious light. Veni Sancte Spiritus.**

**Come from the four winds, O Spirit, come, breath of God;  
disperse the shadows over us,  
renew and strengthen your people. Veni Sancte Spiritus.**

**Guardian of the poor, come to our poverty,  
Shower upon us the seven gifts of your grace.  
Be the light of our lives. O Come! Veni Sancte Spiritus.**

**You are our only comforter, Peace of the soul.  
In the heat you shade us; in our labour you refresh us,  
and in trouble you are our strength. Veni Sancte Spiritus.**

## Homily

### Hymn VU 380 "She Comes Sailing on the Wind"

Chorus: **She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;  
on a journey just begun, she flies on.  
And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,  
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

**Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,  
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.  
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,  
like a mother breathing life into her child.**

**Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight  
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.  
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,  
and then down the ages still she flew on.** Chorus

**To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,  
a whisper softly calling in the dark,  
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,  
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.**

**Flying to the river, she waited circling high  
above the child now grown so full of grace.  
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,  
and she carried him away in her embrace.** Chorus

**Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,  
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,  
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,  
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.** Chorus

### Prayers of the People—written by Donna Macdonald

#### Communion Thanksgiving Prayer

God's Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts with thanksgiving.**

Let us give thanks to the Source of Life and the life-giving Spirit.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all beginnings, God of endings, Eternal light and Warm breath, Melting touch and Healing hand, Creative love and Life-loving Spirit. Breath of the universe, Crafter of the heavens, Star-kindling Spirit, Sun-warming Spirit, Moon-burnishing Spirit, Bud-bursting Spirit, Sap-surgings Spirit, Painter of rainbows, Crafter of trees, Artist of flowers, Midwife of creatures, Source of all life, Spirit of justice, Spirit of righteousness, Spirit of power, Spirit of integrity, Spirit of mercy, Spirit of compassion, Spirit of perfection, Spirit of generosity, Spirit of invitation, Spirit of spirit of gladness, Spirit of exuberance, Spirit of hope without horizon, Light of our lives, Supporter in our trials, Strength in weakness, Consolation in

grief, Healer of wounds, Renewer of strength, Quencher of thirst, Shelter in storms, Tenderness in distress. Divine wind, Breath of God, as a whisper on the breeze, a wind dancing in the treetops, an exhilarating wind of the clifftops, so we sense You in all life. Wellspring of life, Fresh spring of renewal, Clear stream of refreshment, Wide ocean of love, we remember that on the night he was betrayed, the night he gathered with friends in an Upper Room and promised the Spirit would come, Jesus took bread. Jesus broke the bread and passed it to those gathered and said, "Eat this bread, my body broken for you, that you may know healing and wholeness. And when you eat this bread, remember me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took a cup of wine, passed it to those gathered and said, "This is my life poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink from this cup, remember me."

We pray to you: send your Spirit upon us anew here and now, and upon what we do here around this and all the tables around which we gather this day; may the simple things of the earth with which we commune be filled with your Spirit that blesses and renews us afresh this day. Bless us and hold us in your love that we may rise from these tables as new creations. And so, as this Spirit-ed community of love and compassion, we say...

**As people of love and compassion, we give thanks for this tradition of new life and hope in all times and places, and we give thanks for the Spirit's breath in and through each of us.**

As Jesus taught us, we are bold to say...

**Jesus' Prayer** (Paraphrase Version, VU page 916.)

**Our Father-Mother God, who is in the heavens, may your name be made holy, may your dominion come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today the bread we need; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors; and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil.**

**For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

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### **Sharing Communion**

*In your own homes, as you are able and as you choose, you are invited to eat a piece of bread, which we will do at the same time, and drink a small amount of grape juice (or what you are using as a symbol of "wine") as we share communion together.*

### **Prayer After Communion**

**For the gift of the Spirit, for the bread we have eaten, and for the cup we are grateful, O God. For all the gifts of the earth and the gift of each one, we are thankful. Bless us all with peace and the Spirit of Christ, alive in all life. Amen.**

### **Hymn** VU 367 "Come Down, O Love Divine"

**Come down, O Love divine, seek now this soul of mine,  
And visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, my onward path illuming.**

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace, till Love creates the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

**Commissioning and Blessing**

God of fire and beauty,

**Warm us.**

God of peace and justice,

**Disturb us.**

God of wind and wonder,

**Amaze us.**

May the God of Pentecostal fire and wind, life-giving Spirit and Breath, Presence of Christ and justice and peace, bless you and keep you this and every day.

**Amen!**

**Choral Blessing** "Sanctus and Benedictus"

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, O blessed is he**

**Who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Postlude**

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