

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

*...uniting hearts and hands on the journey*



***Sunday, May 31, 2020***

***Pentecost***

*And so we sing of God the Spirit, who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation, animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart. We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.*

*(UCC Song of Faith, 2006)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Intermezzo in A, Op. 118, No.2 (*Johannes Brahms*)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**INTROIT** The Time for Turning (*Craig Courtney*)

The Aurora Choralis and Wesley Bells, violin (May 25, 2019)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Bob, Lisa, Victoria & Elizabeth Kyriakides

No great flowing fabrics of red  
hanging from sanctuary ceilings,  
yet this is still the day we celebrate  
grace's breath shattering the shutters of our hearts.

**On this day, clad in our comfortable clothing,  
sitting at home, may we continue to let the Spirit  
of new life breathe upon us!**

From empty sanctuaries, through video worship,  
we gather with our sisters and brothers,  
proclaiming that we are God's Pentecost.

**On this day, we would touch (virtually) all  
who remain sheltered in place, safe in God's grace.**

There will be no birthday cakes, no balloons released,  
no butterflies emerging from cocoons,  
yet in the days to come, we will continue to speak  
of God's love and the Spirit's peace for all.

**So that even apart, people know they are not alone,  
so that when that day comes, and we know it will,  
people will find a community awaiting them,  
even for hiding in fear behind closed doors.**

Let us worship.

**Let us worship!**

**HYMN** I Feel the Winds of God Today *VU 625*

I feel the winds of God today, today my sail I lift,  
though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift;  
if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use,  
I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears,  
until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years;  
if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be,  
O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown,  
lift high the blood-red flag above; it bears your name alone.  
Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift,  
I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.

### ***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

**O Pentecost's Spirit – if only we could tell of your wonders in our lives, yet social media and other ways we communicate is filled with a confusion of messages, for good and for ill. If only we could share how you have transformed our lives, but we are stuck in our living spaces, hiding from what is seeking to do us harm. If only we could pour you out on all those who are lonely and afraid and worried about tomorrow, but we are fearful of moving too far from home. Even in the closed rooms of our hearts, even with our shuttered spirits, you continue to move, to live, to breathe upon us with your mercy and your grace, God of this day. Now, in this moment, breathe your peace upon us and upon a fearful world, so that we might reflect your peace in our every day. Now, on this day, breathe your hope upon us, and upon a desperate world, so that we may reach out as we are able to express our hope and our care in you. Amen.**

### ***WORDS OF GRACE***

This is our Pentecost. This is our reminder that God fills us with all things new.  
**God gives us renewed hope. Thanks be to God!**

***THEME VIDEO*** Acts of the Apostles: What is Pentecost? (What's in the Bible?) YouTube

### ***FINDING GOD TOGETHER***

***SCRIPTURE*** 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 (One Spirit, many gifts.) NRSV Holly Williamson

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another

prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

**GIFT OF MUSIC**    The Lark Ascending (*Ralph Vaughan Williams*) Wesley Bells, violin

**SCRIPTURE**    Acts 2:1-21 (The Holy Spirit comes in wind and flame.)    NRSV

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON**    Winds of Change

**HYMN** Fire Song (*Alix Brown*) *Tune: VU 333 Love Divine*

Flame of candle flickering softly, heralding the dawning day,  
singing songs of hope and promise, keeping night and fear at bay.  
Hearth fire embers red and glowing, quickly fanned into a flame,  
speak of warmth and love and shelter, tell of life restored again.

Beacon fires leaping skyward: song of war on hilltop borne;  
cries for justice, peace and freedom, look towards a better dawn.  
Volcano fires bursting outwards, who can their awesome power view?  
All-devouring, all-destroying, shaking old, creating new.

Lightning splits the paths of heaven – judgement fire, when all must bow  
as the skies are torn asunder and all things fulfilled below.  
Long ago, Your people knew it: fire descending from above,  
singing judgement, singing freedom, singing life and singing love.

Songs of healing, songs of sorrow, songs for old and songs for young,  
songs of mercy and compassion are the songs the fires sung.  
Fire consuming, not destroying, fire that beckons home the lost;  
all these things and more, You gave us when You came at Pentecost.

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

*A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....*

**OFFERTORY** Be Still, My Soul (*Jean Sibelius arr. Kurt Bestor*) Mark Ruhnke and Linda Henshaw  
(AUC 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, May 27, 2018)

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**  
**PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN** She Comes Sailing on the Wind VU 380

*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 who 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.

*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.*

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.

*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.*

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.

*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.*

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

God of fire and beauty—**warm us.**

God of peace and justice—**move us.**

God of wind and wonder—**amaze us.**

God of Pentecost—**kindle your love in our lives!**

And now, may the blessing of God, giver of every good and perfect gift;  
the blessing of Christ, the Redeemer of the lost and broken;  
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives,  
be with each one of us and all whom we love and serve. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** Sonata in D Major Hob. XVI:37 (First Movement) *Franz Joseph Haydn*



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



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***Participating in Worship today...***

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar

Margaret Heney, Music Coordinator

The Kyriakides Family: Victoria, Elizabeth, Lisa & Bob

Holly Williamson, Wesley Bells, The Aurora Choralis,

Linda Henshaw and Mark Ruhnke

***With thanks to...*** Bob Kyriakides, worship video editing,

Noah Comar videographer...and to all who are filming at home in order

to participate in worship in some way! 😊

*Parts of today's liturgy were adapted from, Lectionary Liturgies (Thom Thurman)*



