

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Asian Heritage Month

May 23, 2021

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 The Lone, Wild Bird (*Henry Richard McFadyen/Walker's Southern Harmony/arr. Courtney Politano*) Honey Whiskey Trio

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*
Debra Hilliard, Nancy Kerswill, Holly Williamson, Rev. Lorraine, Rev. Andy

Acknowledgment of Territory

As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

CALL TO WORSHIP Carol & David Lever

How shall we call God's Spirit?
Water. Fire. Wind.
Infinite in mystery,
and as intimate as a friend.
How shall we know God's Spirit?
Water. Fire. Wind.
Untamable. Unstoppable.
Come and dwell within.
How shall we serve God's Spirit?
Water. Fire. Wind.
With courage and compassion.
**Let our journey now begin
in worship!**

HYMN I Feel the Winds of God Today (*J.Adams/R.V.Williams*) 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

Holy, sprightly Spirit of God, we delight at your dancing among us, filling the world with joyful possibility, revealing the music of the Creator. We rejoice at your daring spontaneity and find ourselves caught off guard by your unexpected communications. In a world that can seem confusing and unpredictable, you spark into being, new possibilities. In a world that can seem drab, you weave your ever-changing patterns into the fabric of our beings. In a world that can appear purposeless, your vitality shouts out a mighty 'yes' to life and declares the source of all living to be the One from whom you proceed, the Father and Mother, Creator and Lover of us all. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, who promised your coming and reigns with you in the eternal kinship of the Creator. God in One, God in community, we pray. Amen. (Iona Community, adapted.)

WORDS OF GRACE

As members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.
Thanks be to God!

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

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-21 (The coming of the Holy Spirit.) NRSV Bill Newman

2When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,

and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷‘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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

GIFT OF MUSIC Poupée Valsante (*Dancing Doll*) Ed.Poldini
Wesley Bells, violin, accompanied by Joy Gannicott

GOSPEL John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 (Jesus will send the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth.)

²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. ¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON **B**reathe

HYMN Called by Earth and Sky (Pat Mayberry) *MV 135*

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.***

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.***

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.***

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.***

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.***

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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

THE NEW CREED VU p. 918 (The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.)

Bell Ringers: Joanne Banfill, Nancy Birtch, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides,
Carol Lever, Sue Linley, John Malarczyk, Mackenzie Malarczyk, Laura Wells

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pentecost—Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Look, here is bread!
Look, here is wine!
Let us celebrate the feast of God!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

To you—Creator God, who spoke the universe into being
through your Word, who formed us in your own image,
who called us by name, to you we lift our hearts,

and give our thanks and praise.

To you—Redeeming God, who was born as one of us in
Jesus, who told stories, restored the lost and broken,
and broke barriers, who died and rose again, and lives and reigns
forever, to you we lift our hearts, **and give our thanks and praise.**

To you—Sustaining God, who is present with us through the Holy Spirit,
who calls us, leads us, inspires us and upholds us, who brings us
into a kinship beyond earthly ties, to you we lift our hearts,

and give our thanks and praise.

And now we join our voices with those of your people of
every time and place as we praise you, singing:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space,

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.

(Kingsfold MV 203)

Before he parted from his friends, Jesus prepared a last supper
to share with them. He took some bread, and gave thanks for it.

Then he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take and eat; this is my body'
he said. When supper was all but over, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks
for it, and gave it to them to drink. 'This cup is the new relationship with God,
sealed with my blood. Take and drink from it. It is for all.'

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

(Kingsfold MV 204)

Pentecost Christ, in the breaking of bread
and the pouring of wine, **come to us.**

As we do now what you once did on earth,
be present with us.

Breathe your Spirit upon this bread and wine.
May they become our spiritual food and drink.
Breathe your Spirit upon us.
**May we be your body, revealing your presence
in the world.**

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer...

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!
(Kingsfold MV 203)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion in this time of pandemic will reflect our households as we bring to our living spaces the things which speak of our lives...bread/wine, bread/juice, pita, rice cracker or otherwise. In response to the invitations: 'Jesus Christ, bread of heaven' and, 'Jesus Christ, cup of salvation'... take the elements of your choice, each in their turn, knowing you reside in the embrace of a broad faith community, tied to one another in the Spirit of God made known in Jesus. We are not alone.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we who have feasted at Christ's banquet follow his dance into unfamiliar places, living gladly the dreams and visions God sends for our world.. Amen.

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.

*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.*

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.

*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.*

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—**disturb 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 a 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 The Time for Turning (*Craig Courtney*)

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



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

Debra Hilliard, Nancy Kerswill, Holly Williamson, David & Carol Lever,
Bill Newman, Joanne Banfill, Nancy Birtch, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides,
Carol Lever, Sue Linley, John Malarczyk, Mackenzie Malarczyk, Laura Wells,
Wesley Bells, Joy Ganicott, The Aurora Choralis.

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With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides, video editor...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate in worship in some way! ☺

The hymn recordings today are from... *More Voices: Audio CD* (The United Church of Canada, 2007) and *YouTube*