

*Our mission is to love God, to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to nurture and strengthen our Christian faith.*

May 23, 2021

Presiding –Wayne Holst

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

SEED OF MEDITATION

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness; and streams in the wasteland. *Isaiah 43:18-19*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Affirming and Right Relations Candle: May these candles remind us to respect and defend all the wonderous diversity we and all people are created in and to honour the land we live on, the traditional territory of Treaty 7 and Métis 3 peoples.

Christ Candle: Four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, give us accounts of Jesus' ministry. They differ because the various evangelists recorded the experiences of Jesus' life as they remembered them throughout the three years of his ministry, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. All four authors remember the challenge in understanding Jesus' teachings and his Way. Today, Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit, who leads us in understanding and following Jesus today. Let us receive the inspiration of the Spirit and the light of Christ.

Bill Perry, Havelock-Trent River P.C., Havelock, Ont., Gathering, Pentecost 1 2021, page 2, used with permission.

FOCUSING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Come, Holy Spirit,

The wind of God, the breath of Life.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Our Advocate, our Counselor.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit,
Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.

Come, Holy Spirit.
May we feel God breathing through our worship.
May we receive the Holy Spirit in this place. Amen.

Joanna Harader, posted on Spacious Faith

OPENING PRAYER:

Spirit of Life, Breath of God,
wind that moves over the earth, we are humbled by your presence and power. We are here this morning to take you in and experience the transforming ways of your love, to rest a little while and sing and pray and be in sacred fellowship with one another.
If we arrive here empty, may we leave filled.
If we arrive here lonely, may we leave uplifted.
If we arrive here anxious, may we leave knowing peace.
May we be a blessed and blessing people today and every day. Amen.

Sheryl Spencer, Mount Forest P.C., Mount Forest, Ont., Gathering, Pentecost 1 2021, page 3 -used with permission

HYMN Morning Has Broken (VU #410)

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day!

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

**READINGS from the Gospel of John by members of the Thursday morning Bible Study Group
and REFLECTIONS by Wayne Holst**

Introduction

Prologue - John 1: 1-13 (Betty Smith)

Reflection

Hymn: Holy Spirit, Hear Us, verse 1-2 (VU #377)

Holy Spirit, hear us; help us while we sing;
breathe into the music of the praise we bring.

Holy Spirit, shine now through this book we read;
on its living pages shine the light we need.

Signs - John 2:1-11 The Wedding at Cana (Joan Montain)

Reflection

Wonders - John 4:43-54 Jesus Heals the Official's Son (Joan Gray)

Reflection

SPECIAL MUSIC

Passion I - John 12:12-16 Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Barbara Fischer)

Reflection

Passion II - John 18:38b - 19:1-16 Jesus Condemned to Die (Amin Ghali)

Reflection

Hymn: Holy Spirit, Hear Us, verse 4 (VU #377)

Holy Spirit, prompt us when we bow to pray;
speak within and teach us what we ought to say.

Holy Spirit, help us daily by your might,
what is wrong, to conquer, and to choose the right

Resurrection - John 20:11-18 Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (Ruth Cross)

Reflection

HYMN My Love Colours Outside the Lines (MV #138)

My love colours outside the lines,
Exploring paths that few could ever find
And takes me into places where I've never been before
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain: *We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines. Refrain

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine,
I want to walk beyond the boundaries, where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. Refrain

HONOURING OUR GIFTS

Come, Holy Spirit, set our hearts on fire!
Find the passion you have placed in our lives
and let it become the fire of transformation,
that refreshes, that refills, that renews, not just for us, O God,
but so we might join with others, to live your love, a love that transforms the world.
As Christ's Pentecost people, we offer these gifts with generous spirits
for the loving transformation of this world.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Richard Bott, Vancouver, B.C. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2021, page 3 used with permission

DEDICATION PRAYER

Holy Spirit,

we give thanks for all the blessings that have come our way. We give thanks for blessings poured out and for the love that we have received. May these our gifts be a blessing for many and a love offering for all. Amen.

Jim McKean, Orillia, Ont. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2021, page 3 used with permission

A TIME OF PRAYER

Holy and Gracious God, we give you thanks for family, friends, life, love
– for ...

All the blessings you have bestowed upon us.

In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of our Mothers and Fathers, your desire for us leads the way,
may we have the ears to hear the cries of this world,
responding with Your hope.

In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Compassionate One, fill us with your love that we
may see deeply into all the needs around us, ...
help us to care with Your heart.

In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

May Your love, Your grace, Your compassion, Your mercy,
carry us away, this day and lead us with love to be Your hands and heart in the world.
Amen.

We lift up these prayers, spoken and unspoken, in your name.
This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

And now we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

Empowered by the word and the story...

we go to be God's people in the world.

Encouraged by the past and beckoned by the future...

we claim our place as teachers and learners.

Accompanied by Creator and Creating, by Great Spirit God...

we go with confidence and grace.

Come, Holy Spirit, set our hearts on fire as we go forth!

Peter Chynoweth, while in Yellowknife, N.W.T., Gathering, Pentecost 1 2021, page 3, used with permission

HYMN Open my Eyes, That I May See (VU #371)

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;

Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain: *Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, thy will to see;*

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!

Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear;

And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Refrain

Open my mouth and let me bear tidings of mercy everywhere;

Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Refrain

POSTLUDE