



Pioneer Pastoral Charge
June 5, 2022
Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Cereal United Church
11:15 Oyen United Church
11:15 AV United Church

Welcome & Announcements

Candle Lighting

We light the Christ Candle, aware of God around, among, & within us. In a moment of silence, we prepare ourselves to celebrate God's presence in our community.

Call to Worship - Acts 2: 1-5 (The Voice)

When the holy day of Pentecost came

50 days after Passover,

they were gathered together in one place.

2 Picture yourself among the disciples:

A sound roars from the sky without

warning, the roar of a violent wind,

and the whole house where you are

gathered reverberates with the sound.

3 Then a flame appears,

dividing into smaller flames

and spreading from one person to the next.

4 All the people present

are filled with the Holy Spirit

and begin speaking in languages

they've never spoken,

as the Spirit empowers them.

Prayer of Approach:

For the moments when,

alone with the world,

we feel connection with all that is:

We give thanks for the gifts of the Spirit.

For the times when we come together

and feel our hearts

blend as one family in worship:

We give thanks for the gifts of the Spirit.

For the strength to reach out

and touch those in need

with actions that speak of God's love:

We give thanks for the gifts of the Spirit.

For the courage to proclaim

and witness to the love of God

in the world, in deed and in word:

We give thanks for the gifts of the Spirit.

In thanksgiving and with assurance

that she is with us in all places

and at all times.

We ask the Spirit to shine through us

in our thoughts, words, and actions.

May we be a Pentecost church,

at work in an eternally changing

and growing world.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: ♪ MV23

Come O Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading(s): Acts 2: 5-12

5 Because of the holy festival,
there are devout Jews staying
as pilgrims in Jerusalem
from every nation under the sun.

6 They hear the sound,
and a crowd gathers.

They are amazed because each
of them can hear the group speaking
in their native languages.

7 They are shocked and amazed by this.
Just a minute, they say.

Aren't all of these people Galileans?

8 How in the world do we all hear
our native languages being spoken?

9 Look—there are Parthians here,
and Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, and
Judeans, residents of Cappadocia, Pontus, and
Asia,

10 Phrygians and Pamphylians, Egyptians and
Libyans from Cyrene, Romans including both Jews
by birth and converts,

11 Cretans, and Arabs.

We're each, in our own languages, hearing these
people

talk about God's powerful deeds.

12 Their amazement becomes confusion as they
wonder,

What does this mean?

13 It doesn't mean anything.

They're all drunk on some fresh wine!

Prayer for Grace:

Holy God,

You send your Spirit among us
and instead of being grateful,
of rejoicing in the connections
that you offer us,

we question your wisdom.

When you give us the opportunity
to turn to our neighbours
and truly understand what they say, how they
feel,

that they are your people as we are

we question your wisdom.

Your Spirit blows into our hearts
without warning

You startle us.

You challenge us

to be more than we are

we question your wisdom.

Forgive us God.

For our doubting,

For our resistance,

For our foolishness.

Stay with us God

And teach us to embrace

your world, your people

and the opportunities

you place before us.

Give us courage

to be more than we are

all that you know we can be.

Amen.

Words of Assurance: (inspired by John 14)

Jesus said, don't let your hearts
be troubled, God will send you another helper,
The Spirit of Truth,
who will be with you always.
You know the Spirit within you.
God promises us a peace with the Spirit
that will inspire us all of our days.

Thanks be to God

Scripture Reading(s):

Acts 2: 14-21 The Voice

As the twelve stood together,
Peter shouted to the crowd
Men of Judea and all
who are staying here in Jerusalem, listen.

I want you to understand:
15 these people aren't drunk
as you may think.

Look, it's only nine o'clock
in the morning!

16 No, this isn't drunkenness;
this is the fulfillment
of the prophecy of Joel.

17 Hear what God says!

In the last days,
I will offer My Spirit
to humanity as a libation.

Your children will boldly speak
the word of the Lord.

18 Young warriors will see visions,
and your elders will dream dreams.
Yes, in those days

I shall offer My Spirit to all servants,
both male and female,
and they will boldly speak My word.
19 And in the heaven above
and on the earth below, I shall give signs
of impending judgment:
blood, fire, and clouds of smoke.
20 The sun will become a void of darkness,
and the moon will become blood.
Then the great and dreadful day
of the Lord will arrive,
21 And everyone
who calls on the name of the Lord
will be liberated
into God's freedom and peace.

Scripture is our song for the journey,
the living word passed on from generation to
generation to guide and inspire.

**God calls us to be doers of the word
and not hearers only.**

Message/Reflections (from Helen)

Hymn: ♪ VU #371

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Offering Invitation

As we hear the stories of God's surprising Spirit that encourages us to be in relationship with God's world,
let us be excited by the opportunities God gives us to inspire and transform the world we share.
Let us commit our time and treasure to stir the power of God's love in the world.

Offertory: ♪ VU #959

The Prayer of Jesus (Lord's Prayer)

Prayer of Dedication:

**God of Flame and Water and Spirit,
Bless these gifts we offer today.**

May your Spirit imbue them
with all the warmth and love
and care that the world needs
and guide them to be used
where they are needed the most.

Blessing

As we leave this place today,
May we feel the warmth and power
of God's Holy Spirit with us.
May we be inspired by God's love
and the teachings of Jesus
to know the power of love,
and to share it,
without question, in God's world.

Changing the Christ Candle:

The light of Christ, Shining into all the corners of the earth, showing us where we are and where we are meant to be.

The Spirit of God. Breathe it in...and know that God is with us wherever we go.

***Sending Song: ♪ VU#381 Spirit of Life
Postlude***

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We remind ourselves that the scriptures we re-visit again and again are there to guide us and inspire us.

The Spirit helps us to bring the lessons of scripture to life in new ways.

In this momentous time of God's Spirit coming to a crowd of faithful believers drawn from many corners of their known world, Peter drew the crowd back from its rising distrust by referring to the scripture stories of their time.

Peter reminded them of the stories, prophecies, of the Prophet Joel: of how God promised moments of fire, smoke and a shaking earth that would mark the coming of the Spirit; of how God promised that the Spirit would come to make all people equal; of how the Spirit would inspire people to know that God's name and his way would give the freedom and peace that they longed for.

God spoke to the people through the voice of Joel promising warnings, promising visions – perhaps imaginations -- that would help grow and move the people forward.

God spoke through Jesus too: promising that the Spirit would be given to them; that the Spirit would inspire them, that accepting the Spirit, the mystery of God among them, would make them stronger and give them strength...save them.

It reminds me of a joke I have heard... A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you." The stranded fellow shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me." So the rowboat went on. Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you." To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." So the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety." To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!" To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"

Our faith tells us that God has continued all of those promises from generation to generation. God accompanies us through times when we question and doubt, when we are afraid of the unknown, the unfamiliar. If only we would listen.

God gives us the ability to see possibilities that we can work toward. God tells us that every person can speak and teach the word of God and encourage others to do so.

Pentecost is seen to be another rebirthing of communities of faith, when God, through the roaring, fiery Spirit, established the church as a means to bring justice, equitability, care and peace to the earth.

While, in those days, the people may have been expecting, or hoping for a wind change in the politics that they lived under, instead, God moved in people's hearts to transform individuals and communities.

God invited those people, and the people now, to be the world's transformers as they are guided and inspired by stories from their past and create new stories toward a better future.

I wonder, what we would do if the Spirit blew into this place today? Would we run and hide? Would we swat away the flames of the Spirit?

Would we want to know all the why's and wherefores before we would agree to do God's work? Or, are we willing to accept the blowing mystery of God taking us on unknown journeys.

Well, church, this is God's annual call to us to embrace the work before us, to be not only

hearers of the word but enthusiastic, faithful doers of the word.

***Are we ready to follow the Spirit Helper that
God sends to us?***

Blessings -- Helen (with some changes 😊)