

# First United Church

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May 28, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Pentecost Sunday & Communion**



Purpose: Building Relationships,  
Living God's Transforming Love.

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Handbell Prelude: Blest Be the Tie That Binds

arr. D. Wagner

## *Listening as we Gather*

### Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

**One:** We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet is sacred. We are on holy ground.

**All: Earth is our only home, and we are related to it as part of the web of life.**

**One:** We lament that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the earth. The climate crisis is one result of our overconsumption and wastefulness. We commit to learning and practicing better care for the earth.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and their spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton, and Anishinaabe and acknowledge their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We lament that we have not honoured their ways, nor their spirituality and we all live with the consequences.

**All: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous people with whom we share the land. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.**

**One:** We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring as part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background or abilities.

### Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

- Introit      Send Your Holy Spirit

VU 370

### Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

- Call to Worship

**ONE:** As silently as a dove descending, God's Spirit comes, descending upon our hearts. As brightly as a flame burning in the night, God's Spirit comes to kindle new love in us. As comforting as the presence of a friend, God's Spirit comes to be with us, To dwell within us.

- Opening Hymn      Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth

VU 207

### Prayer of Approach

**MANY: Holy Spirit, Spirit of love, in the stillness of this sanctuary,**

quiet us and bring us your peace. Rest in us, that we may be tranquil and still. Speak to us, as each heart needs to hear. Reveal to us things hidden and things longed for; Pray in us, that we may be at one with you and with each other. Refresh and renew us from your living springs of water. Dwell in us now and always.

## *Listening For God's Word*

**Acts 2: 1-8, 12, 43-47**

**(Reader: Paul Miller)**

**One:** Herein is wisdom.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**John 20: 19-23**

**One:** This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Ministry of Music:** Kyrie from Mass in G  
Gallery choir; Kate Markwart, soloist

F. Schubert

**Sermon:** "The Wind of God"

Rev. Dr. Orville James

## *Responding to God's Word*

**Time of Offering**

**Handbell offertory:** Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart arr. Dan R. Edwards

- **Dedication of Offering:** Grant Us, God, the Grace VU 540
- **Communion Hymn:** As We Gather at Your Table VU 457

**Invitation to the Tables**

## *Communion Prayer of Intercession & Preparation*

**Many:** We gather, because we hunger and thirst for a deeper faith. And we gather because we recognize the longing of our hearts, for a better life and a fairer world. What does the Lord require of us? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: As you do these may the Lord be with you.

**Many:** And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many:** We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Many:** It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: We pray for the world that God loves and we pray for the world that God is mending. We remember and offer our prayers for all who are in sorrow and in pain, all whom the world counts as last and least.

**Many: We pray, may your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

One: We pray for our families and friends and all people and situations You have placed on our heart today.

**Many: We pray, may your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

One: We remember and offer our prayers for the nations of our world as they strive for peace and justice, for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share.

**Many: We pray, may your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as in heaven. And now, We taste the bread, we drink the cup, we feel new life, *your* life, filling our own. The dark places of our souls are brought to light. The emptiness and the failures are dismissed. We eat and drink forgiveness. We are brought together in love and fellowship. Our hope is reborn.**

One: It is your table, Lord, and it is a table of love.

**Many: Help us to eat and drink worthily, by acknowledging our unworthiness. And let the tokens of bread and juice be a feast to our souls, renewing, restoring, rebuilding, rekindling, remaking us in your image, in the image of love.**

### Consecration of Elements

#### Sharing at the Table

**Music during Communion:** One Bread, One Body John B Foley  
Kate Markwart, soloist

### Prayer after Communion

**All: We give you thanks, Light of Light, that you have refreshed us at your table. As we go from this banquet of love send us out into the world that your Light might shine through us. We ask it in the name of the One who was and is your ever shining One. Amen**

- **Sending Hymn** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU 375

### Sending Forth and Benediction

- **Benediction Response:** Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen VU 974

### Recession of the Light and Word

**Handbell Postlude:** Trumpet Voluntary Jeremiah Clarke, arr. S. Eithun