

Sunday, May 25, 2026 – Order of Service – Pentecost

Light the Christ Candle

Welcome & Announcements

**Call to Worship** -by Nora Vedress, Calvary UC, Prince Albert, SK

L: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,

**P: And in the shelter of the Spirit, we will rejoice and be glad.**

L: The heavens are telling of the glory of God,

**P: And beneath those very stars, we raise our spirits and proclaim that God is good.**

L: The gifts of the Spirit are offered to us,

**P: And, when we put them to use, we discover that our gifts blend with the gifts of others into a wonderful song filled with hope, energy, life, and love.**

L: In this house of prayer, may we find shelter, lift our hearts in prayer, and sing songs of praise:

**P: May we find strength in knowing we are the Body of Christ, enlivened by the Spirit, engaging the work of God in this world.**

L: Come, let us worship our God!

**Ministry of Music** One Day at a Time

**Gathering Prayer** Great are your ways, Holy Spirit, great are your words, Holy Spirit. You are in us and we are in you. Your love abides in us, and we abide in your love. You lead us to the truth. You teach us the way. You inspire us to love others. You give us peace in our hearts, easing our troubled spirits. We are grateful that you guide us to the truth of who we are and what we are meant to do. We thank you for your love and your guidance, today and every day. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** **Spirit Open My Heart**, MVU # 79

Refrain	God, replace my stony	Write your love upon my	May I weep with those
Spirit, open my heart	heart	heart	who weep,
To the joy and pain of	With a heart that's kind	As my law, my goal, my	Share Your grace with my
living.	and tender.	story.	sisters and brothers.
As you love, may I love,	All my coldness and fear	In each thought, word,	In welcoming Christ
In receiving and in giving,	To your grace I now	and deed,	May we welcome one
Spirit, open my heart.	surrender.	May my living bring you	another.
	Refrain	glory.	Refrain
		Refrain	

**Prayer of Confession** -by Gary Simpson, McDougall UC, Edmonton, AB

L: Empowering God, from our spaces of rest, safety, and hectic life schedules, we gather, united and uniting in the warm glow of the Pentecost fire of the Spirit.

**P: We are surrounded by all the signs of God's loving power.**

L: We pause in this space recognizing that ...

**P: We want Pentecost. We long for the renewing of life, for hope given when we are without hope. We long for a spark in our hearts, for power in worship, for power in the midst of injustice.**

L: But we are afraid of the power,

**P: afraid of success, afraid of responsibility, limited by our thoughts of mistakes, by thoughts of when we failed to act, by overwhelming shame. We are sorry. We need Pentecost now. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance** Jesus is speaking, "Shh, my friend. You are forgiven. Peace. Relax. Rest." And you feel muscle forming on the skeleton of your heart, the skeleton of your faith, the skeleton of your social justice. You are growing powerful. The Spirit is in your heart, testifying that you are forgiven. Pentecost has arrived.

**Hymn** Creator God, You Gave Us Life, MVU # 27

Creator God you gave us life, Your image formed within our souls, Yet through the mist of time and space, We search for that which makes us whole.	Refrain Through hands that paint majestic skies, And voices chanting melody, With words that reach beyond the page, We comprehend your mystery.	In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree, We see your great diversity, Yet greater still we see your love, Expressed in our humanity. Refrain	When with our hearts, our hands, our minds, We share our gifts with all the world, Our spirits soar beyond the veil, To touch the very face of God. Refrain
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**Offertory Prayer** -by Sue Carleton, Shallow Lake UC, Shallow Lake, ON

L: Creator God, we are so thankful for the gifts that you have given us

**P: through the Holy Spirit.**

L: We desire and need a constant connection to you, and you have provided that connection

**P: through the Holy Spirit.**

L: We praise you for ongoing knowledge, wisdom, and gifts that we receive

**P: through the Holy Spirit.**

L: We thank you for your promises made and never forgotten

**P: through the Holy Spirit.**

L: And so, we bring our gifts and tithes, that they may become a blessing

**P: through the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Hymn** Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying, VU # 400

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

**Children's Ministry** Tommy's Angel

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Children Leave for Sunday School*

**Scripture Sentences:**

Romans 5:5

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:10

If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There are varieties of gifts: but the same Spirit.

There are varieties of service: but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working: but the same God is at work in all.

**Prayer**

L: We have come to celebrate the birthday of the church. We have come to celebrate Pentecost and to open ourselves to God's Spirit that it might fill us.

**P: O God, help us to direct our thoughts to you, that your power might fill this church and our lives, as it filled your people throughout the ages. Teach us to be your church and your people. Amen.**

L: The risen Christ be with you.

**P: And also, with you.**

L: Let us pray: Spirit of the living God, visit us again this day of Pentecost.

**P: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: On rushing winds that sweep away all barriers,

**P: come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: With tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,

**P: come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: With speech that unites the babel of our tongues,

**P: come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: With love that overleaps the boundaries of race and nation,

**P: come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: With power from above to make our weakness strong,

**P: come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: In the name of God, the Holy One, and of Jesus Christ our Saviour,

**P: come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: Children of God, come and worship!

**P: We are led by the Spirit of God.**

L: Our Redeemer accepts us and invites us to gather as people of faith.

**P: We come, as we are, ready to receive the Good News. Thanks be to God!**

## Reflection

On Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the coming of God's Spirit upon all people. In the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, there are many stories about God's Spirit coming upon individual people for a specific purpose. In the Christian Bible, the New Testament, there is a story of God's Holy Spirit descending on all of Jesus' followers – Pentecost.

120 believers were gathered together in one place, where they had been waiting and praying for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:1). Suddenly they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). They received a supernatural spiritual language that came from their spirit, a language their minds did understand. At that time people from every country were residing in Jerusalem. They heard the disciples speak in their own native languages, even though the disciples had never learned those languages. They were beside themselves with the amazement! This event was a way of God's showing His miraculous power.

Acts 2:7 says that they were "completely astonished". I am sure that everyone was behaving very emotionally. Some people thought those who were filled with the Spirit were drunk, but it was only 9 o'clock in the morning (see Acts 2:15)! They also witnessed Peter, who, due to fear, had recently denied even knowing Jesus, now boldly proclaimed the gospel! When we are filled with the Spirit, we, too, will become bold rather than fearful.

In the Bible story of Pentecost, Jesus' followers told the stories of Jesus and all he had taught. All those listening heard in their own languages. They didn't need a translator. That's an amazing story. It has all the attributes of a Steven Spielberg movie!

The essence of the story is that Jesus followers, although human beings like you and me, received God's Spirit which gave them the power, the knowledge, the strength, everything they would need to carry God's message of unconditional love to the world. On Pentecost Sunday we, therefore, celebrate the coming of God's Spirit upon all of us.

One symbol we have to help us understand God's Spirit is breath or wind. Both are powerful things that we cannot actually see. We can feel them and see the effects of their power. Another symbol for God's Spirit is fire. In the Bible story it tells us that tongues of fire descended upon the disciples when the Spirit came upon them. We know that, like wind, fire is powerful. They can both be used for good and misused for evil.

The Spirit cannot be contained! We can be certain we'll be surprised if we expect life to stay within the same boundaries. The Spirit breathes freedom and unsettles the complacent. We should all pray to be completely filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as these disciples were on Pentecost. Today's world needs to witness the power of God.

As we celebrate Pentecost, how can we dream anew and live into a future full of Spirit-filled liberation and abundant possibilities? Imagine trying to explain to Thomas Jefferson and John Adams how, instead of all the Constitutional Convention delegates travelling to Philadelphia for deliberations in 1787, they could connect by video chat over computers, tablets, or smartphones.

"Why, that's impossible!" they likely would have said. It's amazing how many ways time has turned "impossible" into "possible"!

As many “miracles” as mankind has accomplished, not all things are possible where man is concerned. But where God is concerned, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God” (Luke 18:27). That’s what the angel Gabriel told Mary about the possibility of a virgin giving birth to a child: “For with God nothing will be impossible.” Notice the future orientation of these words: “will be.” Every time we think of something that is impossible, it’s a future event – and God knows the future.

If you are looking at a future event that seems impossible today, tell God your need. What looks impossible to man looks possible to God. His combination of love and power means nothing is impossible for Him where His children are concerned.

As Christians we believe that a spark of God is born within each child at their inception. Nothing can put that spark out. We can fan the flame through the choices we make or leave it dormant. The magic and wonder of God’s Spirit is that the Spirit is always ready to rise up within us and gives with us and gives us what we need for living God’s love. Amen

### **Prayers of the People** -by Shannon Duffus, St. John’s UC, Levack, ON

Breath of Live, in your wisdom grant us knowledge and grace. Fill all peoples with the Spirit. Guide us all into forgiveness of one another, of institutions, of ourselves. Help us to find the peace and healing that you want for us in the quiet moments, in the majesty of nature, among friends and enemies alike. Bring us closer to you that we may reach out. Bring your strength to those who would wield it to create your kingdom, but who are getting tired. Bring your love to those who would nurture and support others, but who are depleted. Bring your joy to those who are in the depths of grief and sorrow. Bring your blessings to the attention of those who feel the void of emptiness. Bring the gifts of the Spirit to the attention of those who do not recognize them. Through you, all things are possible.

Lend us your strength to create unity. Now, let us pray together for each other and for each one in our community and beyond, who needs support as we hold them in our hearts and lift them up to you: (a time of silent prayer) Amen.

### **Parting Hymn** *Oh, a Song Must Rise*, MVU # 142

Refrain	From the mountains to	From poverty and riches,	From ev’ry house of
Oh, a song must rise for	the valleys,	From the voice of young	worship,
the spirit to descend.	From the desert to the	and old,	In ev’ry faith and tongue,
Oh, a song must rise	sea,	A song must rise once	A song must rise once
once again.	A song must rise once	again.	again.
Singing out God’s praises	again.	From the free and	From the villages and
and glory,	From the voices of our	imprisoned,	cities
The faithful voices blend,	leaders,	The timid and the bold,	A new song must be
Oh, a song must rise for	The voice of you and me,	A song must rise for the	sung,
the spirit to descend.	A song must rise for the	spirit to descend.	A song must rise for the
	spirit to descend.	Refrain	spirit to descend.
	Refrain		Refrain

### **Commissioning** -by Susan Silverthorne, First UC, Wetaskiwin, AB

The Holy Spirit inspires us and gives us clear perspective. The Holy Spirit prompts us to discover the presence of Christ all around us. The Holy Spirit inspires us and works through us. The Holy Spirit prompts us to think and act in ways that reveal Christ’s light to others. As we go from this place, we trust the Holy Spirit to fill us with inspiration and to prompt us to act in ways that share the Good News of Jesus Christ. May the grace of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

### **Benediction** -by Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, ON

On this anniversary of the birth of the church, this celebration of hope, this commemoration of a Spirit of redeeming love, go out to be the peace, share the justice, and offer the truth in Christ’s name. Amen.

### **Choral Amen**

### **Extinguish the Christ Candle**