



“O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”
Psalm 104

Seventh Sunday After Easter, May 28, 2023
Manor Road United Church
A congregation of the United Church of Canada
240 Manor Road East, Toronto, ON, M4S 1R8
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Service of Worship

Seventh Sunday After Easter

“Pentecost”

May 28, 2023

“It is through one another that we will know more of the Life that flows within us all.” John Phillip Newell

Responses and Prayers in bold type are for congregational participation.

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

As we gather for Pentecost season, we honour the winds, of the north where we see the northern lights, the south where we meet tropical waves on sandy shores, of the west the land of setting sun and in the east where we meet the new day. We thank the many First Nations as our brothers and sisters and traditional inhabitants of the lands. May we extend a thank you to the Creator fire for today.

GATHERING MUSIC MV 21

“Open Our Hearts”

**Open our hearts, open our minds,
Open our lives to you O loving God,
Open our hearts.**

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Shalom, Sawidi, A Paz
Salaam, Sawidi, A Paz**

Come to Jesus, you who are thirsty.

Alleluia!

Drink deeply of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia!

Let your heart overflow with the living water
that renews the face of the earth.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 198

“Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us” Verses 1, 3

**Come, O spirit, dwell among us, come with pentecostal power;
give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial
hour. Built upon a firm foundation Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,
still the church is called to mission that God’s love shall be
made known.**

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name.
God, all holy, Son and Spirit, three in one: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.**

OPENING PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God, like a rushing wind your Spirit moved upon
the first disciples on the day of Pentecost,
and like a purifying fire your Spirit seared their hearts and minds with
the message of salvation.

**Send your Spirit upon your church in this
time and place, stir up our courage, and rouse us for prophetic
witness, that we may join with them
to proclaim to the world your mighty deeds of power. Amen**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE INVOCATION

May the angels of light glisten for us this day. May the sparks of
God’s beauty dance in the eyes of those we love. May the universe
be on fire with Presence for us this day.

**May the new sun’s rising grace us with gratitude as we light the
Christ candle. Let earth’s greenness shine and its waters**

breathe with Spirit. Let heaven's winds stir the soil of our soul and fresh awakenings rise within us. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new creation, we confess that we have failed to trust your bountiful goodness.

**By the power of the Holy Spirit
you brought forth the earth and its
creatures in abundance.**

Yet, we hoard earth's resources and refuse to share your gifts.

**We dishonor your generosity by withholding
We betray your kindness by dealing harshly
with our enemies.**

We disregard your compassion by severely judging the sins of others.

Forgive us.

By the power of your Spirit renew our hearts and free us from sins that we may enjoy the fullness of your blessing upon all creation. **Amen**

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE

Sisters and brothers, God offers forgiveness of our sins and the grace of repentance.

**Accept God's grace, repent of your sin,
and be restored to abundant life. Amen**

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you!

(Please share the peace of Christ with a hand wave, Peace Birds for all).

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE MV 33**

“Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope”

**Jesus came bringing us hope, Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope, hallelujah forever more!**

**Jesus came bringing us love, Jesus came bringing us love,
Jesus came bringing us love, hallelujah forever more!**

ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN - Allison Marcaccini

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Almighty God,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
speak to us in the language of our hearts,
that we may hear your Word with understanding
and answer your call with confidence. **Amen**

PENTECOST ANTHEM

"Come, Holy Spirit" Jean Anne Shafferman

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st Reading Numbers 11:24-30 Andrea Cabeza

1:24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent.

11:25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

11:26 Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

11:27 And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

11:28 And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!"

11:29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

11:30 And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

2nd Reading Acts 2:1-21 Mike Russell

2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2:2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

2:6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

2:7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

2:8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

2:9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

2:11 Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

2:13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

2:14 But 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.

2:15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

2:16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

2:17 '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.

2:18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

2:19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

2:20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

2:21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

3rd Reading John 7:37-39

7:37 On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,

7:38 and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

7:39 Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

RESPONSE

Hear the Wisdom told to us through the Ages.

Thanks be to God

***HYMN MV 23**

"Come, O Holy Spirit"

**Come, O Holy Spirit, set the Church on fire;
strike it as the lightning hits a posing spire.
Burn away the structures and consume the sham
of our holy systems: Come, in Jesus' name!**

**Come, come, come, in Jesus name!
Take our hearts by storm
All the world lies open:
Pentecost is now! I said a Pentecost is now!**

**Free us from the babble of our Babel mind;
spark in us a language all can understand.
Lighten then our darkness, come and show us how
all the world lies open: Pentecost is now!**

**Come, come, come, in Jesus name!
Take our hearts by storm
All the world lies open:
Pentecost is now! I said a Pentecost is now!**

**SERMON "Fire Power"
The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**

SILENT REFLECTION

DIVERSITY CREED

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky
Paint the world in colors proud and bold and free

We're a coat of many colors, sewn from many different threads
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace
God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade
In the rainbow each of us can find a place

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day
We are peace in a world that's torn apart
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone
For our God will be with us on the way
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky
Paint the world in colors proud and bold and free
by David Kai

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Alleluia, Praise to God” MV 59

Alleluia, praise to God. Alleluia, praise to God.
Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.
Alleluia, praise to God.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Almighty God,

we have opened our hands to you,

and our hands have been filled with good things.

Receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your care for us,

and help us to bless you with dedication of our lives;

through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.

Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Kyrie Eleison” MV 67

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison, Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire the sons and daughters of your church

for prophetic witness to your truth,

and upon old and young give clarity of vision

to acknowledge your saving power in the world. For nations of the world and its leaders,
Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Overcome the babble of misunderstanding
among the nations,
and let all people hear in their own language and
recognize in their own culture
your unifying message of love.
For planet Earth, our home,
Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

By your Spirit, renew the earth,
make us good stewards of its resources,
and teach us to enjoy its abundance rightly.
For those in need of healing,
Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.
Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
“Kyrie Eleison” MV 67

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison, Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Among those known to us, God, we pray for N. and N., [etc.]
Send your healing Spirit upon those who are sick in body or mind,
restore them to health,
and restore to them the joy of salvation.
For our neighbors and members of our civic community,
Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to be good neighbors,
to live in peace with one another,
and in friendship share the joys and burdens of daily life.
For our children,
Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our children, protect them from danger,
and help parents and caregivers nurture them
so that they may mature in wisdom and grow in grace.
For our enemies,
Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our enemies
and show us how we may do good to them
for the sake of Jesus Christ.
In your mercy, Almighty God, receive our prayers
and, according to your wisdom,
provide all that we need;

THE LORD'S PRAYER VU 959

As a mother nurtures her children. Let us sing...

**Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today
our daily bread, Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen**

HYMN VU 367

"Come Down, O Love Divine" Verses 1, 3

**Come down, O Love divine, see now this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing,
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**

**And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long
shall far surpass the power of human telling,
for none can guess its grace, till love creates the place
where in the Holy Spirit makes its dwelling.**

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***SUNG RESPONSE MV 211**

“Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

**Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be nourished by the Word of life.**

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