



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for May 20, 2018

Day of Pentecost

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Something was happening! The whole church was in one place, all together. There was a rush of wind (leader shakes Spirit shaker).

All: There was fire coming down from the sky! (Shake Spirit shakers.)

One: Each voice spoke another language

All: We all understood each other!

One: What was happening?

All: The church was born!

One: The Holy Spirit was given (shake Spirit shakers).

All: The church came alive in love!

One: Come, let us worship God.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Fire of God, Undying Flame"** (VU 209 vs 1&5)

OPENING PRAYER:

ALL: God of rushing wind and chaos, we celebrate the gift of your Holy Spirit today. We welcome the birth of your church. From a small household to today's global village, we celebrate your church. May we be mindful today of the ways your winds of change blow through us all. May we be inspired by your spirit to hear you and to follow you. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE:

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share a sign of peace with each other.

OPENING HYMN: **"Come, O Holy Spirit"** (MV 23)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (VU 375)

All: (Sing the refrain of "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness.")

One: God of new life and new beginnings, you created this earth and all that is in it, and we are not faithful stewards of what you have given us. You called to us to care for your creation, and our lives are lived in ways that ignore that call. You called us through the power of your Holy Spirit to open our eyes from the slumber of denial about our actions and fly to new heights with your power, and we ignored your request.

All: (Sing verse 1 of "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness.")

One: God, we have worshipped those things that are not holy. We worship money, power, self-sufficiency, technology, power, and fame. We ignored the prophets you sent who told us to worship only you. We still ignore the voices that try to pull us to you and away from sin.

All: (Sing verse 2 of "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness.")

One: Jesus came to redeem us; to bring us back into right relationship with you. He came as a baby, and as an adult gave us your teachings. He was born in a stable, died on a cross, and rose to new life. In you, in Christ, we are made right with you. We are forgiven.

All: (Sing verse 3 of "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness.")

One: You blew through your people, and inspired us to move forward as the forgiven people of Christ who we are. We pray that inspired by your spirit we may live a different kind of life than we may have otherwise. That through the breath of your spirit, we may respond to the call to repent

and return to you. Through the Spirit, may we see the visions, dream the dreams, and live the lives as God's forgiven that Christ calls us to live. Amen.

All: (Sing verse 4 of "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" and refrain.)

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "**Jesus, We Are Here**" (MV 189)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Response after each prayer:

One: God of Love; **ALL: Hear Our Prayer**

Child: The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Councillor Cathy Crozier, Redcliff and St Ambrose Anglican (the Rev David Carter)**

Child: South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for the **Alberta and Northwest Conference Staff**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Shine on us, Spirit of God. Let your energy empower us to hear your word with discernment and be Spirit-bearers in our place and time. Amen

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 2:1-21**

ANTHEM: "**Spirit's Comin**"

SCRIPTURE: **John 15:26-27**

MEDITATION: "**Pentecostal Fire**"

†HYMN: "**I the Lord of Sea and Sky**" (VU 509)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: "**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**" (VU 541)

†DEDICATION:

ALL: It is through your love that the church came to life, almighty God, and it is through your love that we are called to give. Take these gifts that reflect our devotion to you and bless them for your service. May your Pentecost spirit inspire us as we use them. May we sense the spirit calling us to something new as we serve you. Amen.

†A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

One: Love came to life when you spoke and light entered the world, God of all creation.

Your Word pushed up mountains and pulled up tides.

Your Word grew palm trees, grape vines, kelp, carrots, birds of paradise, cacti, and grasses.

Your Word breathed life into tigers, whales, goats, roadrunners, emu, and elephants.

Your Word breathed life into us.

ALL: As we lived in the world you created, sin marred your work,

**and so you entered into covenant with us to redeem us from sin.
Time after time after time you called and we did not listen.
Time after time after time we walked away from where you wanted us to go.
Time after time after time you kept calling, kept showing us what you had for us.**

One: And when, time after time after time we declined your invitation
you continued to embrace us as your children.

You sent Jesus to come be your love for us.

To come to life in us.

Jesus came, and he lived.

Jesus showed us how you wanted us to live and to love.

Jesus came with a passion for your people, for justice, for peace.

ALL: And we did not listen.

Jesus came living as an example of your love, and we ignored it.

He told his story, foretold what would happen to him.

And then it did.

One: Your Word was arrested, tortured, and executed for our redemption.

The life you breathed into him ended.

And yet, the story was not over, God of surprises.

On the third day, your love came to life again.

ALL: Christ's tomb was empty, and we were redeemed.

Your love came to life in Christ, and rekindled a fire in us.

A fire to love, a fire to serve, a fire to believe.

One: Fifty days later the fire returned, sweeping through us with wind

The fire of the Spirit energized and empowered Jesus' followers

ALL: As today we also are consumed and transformed anew as disciples

The Spirit opens our lips in a common language of praise as our many voices blend into one

One: May the grapes of the vine and the grains of the field breathe life and love into us.

In them, may we be fed to feed others.

ALL: May the love that came alive continue to live in each of us.

As we eat and drink, may your love call us out to serve the God who breathed life into us all.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

✠CLOSING HYMN: "***All Creatures of our God and King***" (VU 217)

✠COMMISSIONING:

One: May the Holy Spirit blow you in new directions.

May the Holy Spirit inspire you to do new things.

May the winds of Pentecost move your heart and the flames of Pentecost warm your hearts.

May you go this day renewed, refreshed, challenged, and secure in the knowledge of God's love for you. Amen.

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: "***Dance with the Spirit***" (MV 156)

✠BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Jennifer Oster
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Donna Scharf
<i>Greeters:</i>	Betty Sidlick, Albina Jackson
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Linda Kisell, Pat Jennissen
<i>Sound System Operator:</i>	Pat Evans
<i>PowerPoint Operator:</i>	Kathy Nielsen

Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances.

The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.

Donations at Coffee Time for May are allocated to Westminster UCW.

Announcements

The office will be closed Monday, May 21, for the Victoria Day Statutory Holiday. If you are in need of urgent pastoral care, please feel free to call either Rev. Chelsea Masterman (403-458-1241) or Rev. Jan Stevenson (403-952-6671).

On May 10-13, Alberta Northwest Conference of the UCC held its last regular full court meeting before the restructuring of the church takes effect in 2019. With this restructuring, Presbyteries and Conferences will disappear as organizational units of the UCC and be replaced by Regions. Revs. Jan and Chelsea both attended the meeting. Part of the conference included ordaining and commissioning new ministers, admitting ministers from other denominations, and celebrating the ministry of those retiring. Rev. Jan Stevenson was part of the retirees thanked and honoured at the Celebration of Ministry banquet on Saturday evening and at the worship service on Sunday morning.

Volunteers are needed for the spring church yard cleanup which will be held **Saturday, May 26th starting at 10:00 am**. We will also need some volunteers to help with some minor repairs around the church. Please bring your own tools (rakes, sturdy gloves, toolkits, etc.) Thanks!

Thank you to Pat Evans for volunteering to chair the Board of Elders Meeting on May 28.

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee is gathering information for its work. Members of the JNAC will be available at coffee time after worship on June 3, 2018 to hear from the congregation about our ministry needs.

During the month of May, the UCW is holding a **"Bakeless Bake Sale"**. UCW members donate the amount they would normally spend on baking supplies, and everyone is welcome to donate the amount they would have spent on purchasing baked goods.

Sunday, May 27, 2:00 pm at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church: Joyful Sound Ladies' Chorus presents *"The Music of Your Heart"*, featuring the Kodaly Songsters Children's Choir. Admission at the door \$10

Great Plains Concert, featuring Darrell and Saskia scheduled for May 27 has been postponed until the fall. All tickets that have been purchased will be refunded, either through the person you purchased them through or through the office.

Sunday, June 17, 10:25 am: *Outdoor Worship Service for Westminster United Church.* The service will be held at Kin Coulee Kitchen by the Toboggan Hill this year. Hopefully this location will be more accessible to people.