

Melville United Church
Sunday May 20, 2018
Pentecost



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Sharing the Light:

Call to Worship:

Spirit of Joy - come like the wind, swirling among us; fill us with enthusiasm, and energize us to do your work and your will.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Joy!

Spirit of Truth - come as the flame of Christ's light among us, shining in our hearts, our minds, our lives.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Truth!

Spirit of Life - come as the breath of life, pouring energy and power into our dry bones, rekindling those who are weary, that we may have life and know God.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Life!

Spirit of Hope - come from the four winds breathing upon all your people, that all creation may be renewed with hope.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Hope!

Spirit of Love - come as our Comforter and Consoler, so that all who are broken and wounded are healed, so that all who grieve may be consoled by the power of your love and grace.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Love!

Spirit of Wisdom - come as a light of understanding, that diversity in all its forms may be respected and may be understood as something to cherish.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Wisdom!

Spirit of Peace - come as the winds of truth, that our hearts may be kindled by the passion for justice and peace.

Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Peace!

We are people of Spirit - come, let us worship together!

Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	
Minister of Music Team:	Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
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May 20, 2018

Hymn: She Comes Sailing on the Wind

VU 380

Opening Prayer: *(Written by Jean Leckie, Gathering, Pentecost 1 2018, pg 28. Used with permission)*

As you invaded the room where the disciples met in Jerusalem,
invade our gathering here today.

O God of wind and fire, send your Spirit on us.

As you inspired the disciples to tell of your great deeds,
inspire us today.

O God of wind and fire, send your spirit on us.

As you drew people to come seeking grace and belonging,
draw us to you today.

O God of wind and fire, send your Spirit on us. Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Affirmation:

All sing:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

God of new life and new beginnings,
you created this earth and all that is in it,
You called to us to care for your creation,

and we often live in ways that ignore that call.

You called us to open our eyes
from the slumber of denial and fly to new heights.

and we ignored your request.

All sing:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

God, we have worshiped those things that are not holy.

**We worship money, power, self-sufficiency,
technology, power, and fame.**

We ignored the prophets who told us to follow your ways.

**We still ignore the voices
that try to steer us away from destructive choices.**

All sing:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

Jesus came to teach us how to live
in right relationship with you and each other.

**You blew through your people,
inspiring all to follow in the ways of love that Jesus taught.**

We pray that, inspired by Spirit, we may live a different kind of life.

Through the breath of Spirit, teach us to live in harmony.

Through the Spirit, may we see the visions, dream the dreams,
and live the lives that Christ calls us to live.

All sing:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.
Amen.**

Ministry of Music:

Theme Conversation: A Place for All

Hymn: A Place in the Choir

Chorus:

**All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low. Some sing higher.
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire.
And some just clap their hands or paws
or any thing they got now.**

**Listen to the bass. It's the one on the bottom
where the bull frog croaks and the hippopotamus
moans and groans with a big t'do,
and the old cow just goes "Moo."**

Chorus:

**The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
while the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles.
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
and the old coyote howls.**

Chorus:

**Listen to the top where the little birds sing
and melodies with the high notes ringing.
The hoot owl hollers over ev'ry thing
and the jay bird disagrees.**

Chorus:

**It's a simple song of living sung ev'rywhere
by the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
the grumpy alligator and the hawk above,
the sly raccoon and the turtle dove.**

Chorus:

Scripture: Romans 8:22-28 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)
(*The Spirit comes to help us*)

We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit - we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen. Why does one hope for what one sees? And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

The Spirit, too, comes to help us in our weakness. For we don't know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit expresses our plea with groanings too deep for words. And God, who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what the Spirit is saying, because her intercessions for God's holy people are made according to the mind of God.

We know that God makes everything work together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to God's purpose.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 104:24-34

(*paraphrase by James Taylor in Everyday Psalms*)

(*Our place in creation*)

You made everything, God.

You imagine it, and it happens.

You breathe on it and give it life.

The oceans are the amniotic fluid of the earth.

In your womb we share our origins.

**We like to think we look after ourselves
with trade and commerce,**

with boats that plow the seas

with trains and trucks and planes.

We braid our lives with busy-ness.

Yet everything owes its life to you;

everything continues to depend on you for life.

**You bring forth food from the earth,
from the seas, from the skies.**

By your bounty all are fed.

**If you withdraw your favour,
we all perish.**

Without you, we are no more
than a collection of chemicals.

But you put your breath of life into us.

With each new generation, you renew us.

Our living bodies reveal your spirit.

May our living be acceptable to you, our God.

**You create the volcanoes and the earthquakes,
the hurricanes and glaciers;**

you shape the earth itself.

Yet you care about us.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude.

Reader: Mary Lloyd

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)
(The coming of the Holy Spirit)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven, the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome - all Jews, or converts to Judaism - Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!"

All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" But others said mockingly, "They've drunk too much new wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: "Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! These people are not drunk as you think - it's only nine o'clock in the morning! No, it's what Joel the prophet spoke of:

'In the days to come - it is our God who speaks - I will pour out my spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams. Even on the most insignificant of my people, both women and men, I will pour out my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. And I will display wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: blood, fire and billowing smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon will become blood before the coming of the great and sublime day of our God. And all who call upon the name of our God will be saved.'

Message: Spirit Comes

Hymn: I Feel the Winds of God, Today **VU 625**

Offering:

Offering Song: As Long As We Follow **MV 140**

**As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,
 we know God's reign will surely come.**

**As long as we act there is a future for creation,
 a future for the universe.**

We know this, we know this,

Yes, God's reign will surely come.

***Offertory Prayer:**

It is through your loving Spirit that the church came to life, creating God, and it is through your Spirit that we are called to give. Take these offerings as a reflection of our devotion. May the Pentecost spirit inspire us. May we sense the spirit calling us to something new. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Spirit of Life **VU 381**

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free;

Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth

VU 207

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

May the Holy Spirit blow you in new directions.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us to do new things.

May the winds of Pentecost move your heart

and the flames of Pentecost fire our imaginations.

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

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there around, within, above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Prayer of the week:

Holy Spirit, blow through our hearts, our churches, and our communities
with your all-consuming power. Help us speak the language of love not
just with our lips, but with our lives. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Door Youth Centre

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Southminster, Niagara Falls

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Diane Maloney, Mark Andrews
Joan and John Cuming

Counters: Kaillie Rawn, Chris Hopewell