

Quispamsis United Church

May 28th, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday

Liturgical Colour: Red

Presider: Rev. Audrey Lounder

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sally Allanach

Centering Passage:

Imagining Jesus as apolitical is itself a political decision — and it is a decision that aligns with politically and financially powerful interests.

- Josiah R. Daniels, "What 'He Gets Us' Ads Get Wrong About Jesus"

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light this candle to symbolize Jesus here with us and the Spirit of God that resides in each of us this day and always.

Opening Music Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart - arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

Spirit of the Living God

VU 376

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:**

humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Here we are, the people of God gathered from all over this community.

We have come to hear the good news and to learn more about being God's people.

We have come, for we are in need of God's goodness.

We have come looking for guidance and deliverance from what holds us back from living full and vital lives.

We come as strangers and friends, allies and outsiders, all drawn into the circle of God's compassion and kindness.

We have come because God longs to encounter us and enfold us in love.

We have come to worship God! Let us worship together.

Prayer of Approach

Hymn:

Dance With the Spirit

MV 156 (x3)

**Dance with the Spirit early in the morning,
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day,
Work and hope for a new life a-bornin',
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Responsive):

Pentecost God,

thank you for the gift of the Spirit;

for the power and energy the Spirit brings

and for the knowledge that we are not alone.

Nevertheless, sometimes we find it hard to believe in things we cannot see or touch.

We remember the times we have not recognized the Spirit's still small voice,

the times we have ignored the Spirit's prompting,

the times we have not acknowledged the Spirit's work around us,

the times we have resisted the Spirit's transforming power.

We remember and we are sorry.

Pour out your Spirit anew;

blow through us and ignite us once more.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Our God is always making all things new;
our shortcomings are forgotten
and we can begin again,
with God's Spirit as our helper.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Time for All Ages

Readings from the Early Church: Acts 2:1-21 (*The Holy Spirit comes in wind and flame*)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"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.

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

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

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gift of Music: Soul on Fire – Sunday Night Jammers

Reflection Where do we go from here?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart MV 79

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God replace my stony heart with a heart that's pure and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. R**

**Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. R**

**May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. R**

How Can I Give?

1/ If you have internet banking, you can E-transfer funds to QUC by sending the funds to QUC@nb.aibn.com. Do not forget to send a separate email with the answer to your security question.

2/ Go to www.CanadaHelps.org and search for Quispamsis United Church. You can give to the church by using your credit card. The address says Gondola Point, do not worry, that is us.

3/ Mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

4/ You can sign up for a pre-authorized remittance (PAR) donation which comes out of your bank account or credit card once a month. You can cancel this at any time. Contact Brion Crossman at 849-6003 for details.

5/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.

6/ As we consider the greater work of the United Church consider giving to Mission and Service Fund through your regular offering or at <https://united-church.ca>

Sunday Night Jammers: Spirit in the Sky/When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

Offertory Prayer (Unison):

God who is in the spirit of Pentecost

you have given us so much:

Christ to inspire us,

your Spirit to enable us,

your love to support us;

and so we bring these offerings

that others may be inspired, enabled, and supported.

Amen.

We Pray for Ourselves and Others

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Hymn:

I Feel the Winds of God
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

VU 625

It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

**If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.**

Commissioning and Benediction (Responsive):

God the Creator, Divine Wisdom, blesses us with gifts and grace;
God the Pain-Bearer, Divine Word, gives us good news to share;
God the Life-Giver, Divine Spirit, works in our lives to bring
faith, hope, and love.

**We go to share God's gifts and grace,
to be witnesses to the good news of Jesus,
and live in the Spirit. Amen.**

Choral Closing

May God's Sheltering Wings
May God's sheltering wings
His gathering wings protect you
May God's nurturing arms,
Her cradling arms sustain you
And hold you in her love,
And hold you in his love.

MV 214

Closing Music The Heavens Are Telling - Haydn