

Announcements: We had a worship Committee Meeting this week and it has been decided to have June services on June 7, 21 (Father’s Day) and 28 (traditionally it is “Bless the Animals” and often outside). As usual I will have holidays in July & be **back August 7**. All activities for the summer have been cancelled because of the COVID-19.

Grace & Peace to you, Dear Friends,

I hope you are wearing RED and have your communion ready. The theme today is the “Passion of Pentecost”.

This hymn aptly captures the Spirit of Pentecost:

The Holy Spirit

**“She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;
On a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
Her song rings out through the night ,
Full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.” (VU 380)**

This is the Holy Spirit that embraces us!

There are several symbols for Pentecost—the birthday of the Christian church. One of them is the dove. When Jesus was baptized the dove circled high and swept down from the sky allowing all to see how God embraced & loved his Son. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased”. The stole I’m wearing today has the wings of the dove. You’ll also see the wind and fire symbolizing the passion & power of the Spirit.

In your own lives, I’m sure you have felt the whisper of the Spirit—yes, O God, I know you are nudging me to phone, or fix, to lend or give. Perhaps I’ve been putting it off—but I know you are speaking to me. You urge me into “goodness”--being of God. It is my “best self” that is called forth.

Often it is in a crisis, that the passion & power of the Spirit comes to us. Someone we love dearly leaves us and we must come to terms with the new path that God has given us. Or perhaps it is an illness, a disease or a painful condition or situation. We suffer. We feel alone. God calls us to be brave and draw on the strength of the Holy. This powerful, awesome Spirit!

Sometimes too, we are humbled by events. We face our own vulnerability—our weaknesses, failures & flaws. And simply need to accept the facts of the journey of life. “Let go & let God” can help us gain a wholesome, loving perspective. This awesome Spirit will **always be with us**. This Sacred Presence is **always for us**. We are given this constant assurance.

Let us turn to the scriptures of today: the **Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2: 1-21**.

We imagine what it might have been like at that first Pentecost. ----- Miriam was there. She was about 12 at the time. She is with her mother at the market place in Jerusalem, a big city.

Miriam always liked going to the marketplace with her mother. There was always so much to see. There were lots of stalls selling all kinds of things, and today there would be lots of people from different countries who had come to Jerusalem for the celebration. It was fifty days after Passover when everyone would feast to celebrate the harvest. Miriam and her mother were going to buy special food for this feast. Miriam is very excited.

Just as they get to the market, Miriam hears a rushing noise. All of a sudden, a strong wind sprang up and almost blew Miriam over. Luckily, she was holding on to her mother’s hand. As they walked further into the market, Miriam noticed that it was even noisier than usual. She could hear lots of people all talking at once,

but she couldn't understand what any of them were saying. Miriam held her mother's hand tightly – she was a bit afraid because of all the noise and confusion. When the crowd parted slightly, Miriam saw where the noise was coming. There was a group of people on the roof of a nearby house. They were all standing, holding their hands up, and talking at the tops of their voices.

A man standing next to Miriam's mother said, "I live in Crete and have come to Jerusalem for the festival. I didn't expect anyone to speak my language here, but one of those men is speaking Cretan. He is praising God in my language."

"I can hear another one speaking Arabic and one speaking Egyptian. What's happening?" asked another man.

"Perhaps they have drunk too much wine," suggested Miriam's mother.

Just then, the people on the house fell silent and one of them, a man called Peter, came forward and spoke to the watching crowd. He explained that they weren't drunk. Something amazing had happened to them. A prophecy had been fulfilled, and they now felt God's presence with them in a new and exciting way.

When Peter finished speaking, Miriam and her mother continued with their shopping, but Miriam couldn't stop thinking about what Peter had said. She thought it would be good to feel that God was always with you. She planned to learn more.

And that was the first Christian Pentecost. They were moved by the Spirit—the "Passion of Pentecost". Today, we too, as modern-day Christians are also touched by God's Spirit. Sometimes very unexpectedly, but always wondrously.

This week I talked with Bob Hamilton & Patty Walters who were volunteers in the recent food drive. They said they had had so many come to pick up food and thought by this weekend, most of the food would have been taken or delivered. You could go to the arena to pick up a hamper or ask one to be delivered to you or a friend or a neighbour.

The passion of the Holy Spirit at work!

Praise be to our God who empowers us all.

Amen!

Let us pray: O Holy One, you enhance each life, empowering us to be the hands & feet of God. Even as we celebrate our differences, your life-giving work unites us and enables the mission & ministry of Jesus Christ to be nurtured & renewed each day in our lives & in the lives of others. Bless us all as we serve with the joy of compassion. Amen.

And now our Holy Communion: Get ready with your cookie/bread and your drink.

"On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to his friends saying: "Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you & all people. Do this in remembrance of me".

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS: Let us pray:

Bless, O God, this bread (cookie or cracker) and this cup (juice, coffee or tea) that it may be for us communion in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. Send your Spirit upon these elements and upon us and grant that we may live—faithful, loving and compassionate lives all our days. Amen.

Partake of the bread: Jesus Christ is the bread of life. Amen!

Partake of the cup: This is the cup of blessings, poured out for you. Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

O God, in your gift of the Holy Spirit, you bring a vision of peace to our earth and goodwill to all. Help us to do our part to care for the world you love. May hope, peace, joy and love abound in us, through Jesus our Lord, the Saviour of the world. Amen.

Let us say our Lord's prayer together:

AMEN

PRAYERS for healing, comfort & courage:

The family & friends of Allan Hutchison whose funeral service was on Wed. May 27th. He is the older brother of Joyce Sinasac.

All persons on the front lines battling COVID- 19 We pray for ourselves too. Help us to be safe, take precautions & not be in constant fear. May we have a realistic perspective.

In our faith community: Frank Sinasac, Cheryl Fisher, Dorothy Vogt, Lisa (Downie) Power, Donna Jewett, Larry Saylor Shirley Bolton, Deb Griffith, Luis Pereira. Rev. Ross & Mary Williams in Strathmere Lodge, Strathroy.

PRAYERS for blessing, praise & celebration:

Wonderful spring weather & the careful opening up from the complete lockdown

The birth of Nolan William Smith son for Jason & Alyssa, brother for Reese and grandson for Terry & Karen Smith.

Birthdays for May 31-Bev Coleman; June 1 to June 15—Amy Malott, Jaden, Erica Ferris, Greg Stevens, Dave Martin, Nancy Ross, Rob Elliott, Joanne Lewinsky, Craig Annett, Linda Daly, Chris Walters, Mary Taylor, Tracey Robinson, Mandy Curan

For THE MERRY HEART

LEXOPHILE-one who loves words.

He can tune a piano, but he can't tuna fish

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

• A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy. •

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

• When chemists die, they barium.

• I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Have a good week. Stay safe!

Shalom, Annalee

