

June 8, 2025 Pentecost/Union Sunday That All May Be One

Prelude

Welcome

Check In: What do you like about church?

The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples.

John Wesley

It is the attitude of some leaders of God's people; they continually scold others, hurl reproaches at them, tell them to be quiet. ... 'Madam, take your crying child out of the church as I am preaching.' As if the cries of a child were not a sublime homily.

Pope Francis

The True Church can never fail. For it is based upon a rock.

T. S. Eliot

Acknowledgement of the Land and Commitment to Reconciliation:

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations.

Today, our meeting place is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, including the Metis, and our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land. We are all Treaty People.

This week, we honour Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne and the leadership she is offering to the United Church of Canada.

We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch

Call to Worship

With a rush of wind and kisses of fire,
God's Spirit invites us to dance.

**As dust is shaken off our souls
and our hearts are stirred,
we take her hand in joy.**

Our tongues touched with flames,
with hope tingling our tongues,
we utter words lodged deep in our souls

**The Breath of God fills our lungs
so we can sing God's praises.**

Come, Holy Spirit, come,
blowing away our weariness
and rekindling our faith.

We are blessed by the Spirit,

So, let us worship in this space that God is creating,
where all are embraced.

Together we become beloved community.

Song of Praise: MV 122 This is the Day

Opening Prayer

Reader: Shiela Thompson

Awesome God,
on Pentecost, you gave the gift of the Holy Spirit
to an expectant and united church.
And by your Spirit, you bring us to this time and place
to lift our hearts, minds, and bodies to worship you.
Grant us the hope of the same Spirit
in our life and worship.
Help us to expect great things from you,
and attempt great things for you!
We are diverse in many ways,
but our hearts are one in you.
May we show the world
the love we experience in Jesus,
and the power we find in the Spirit
as we seek to honour your dream.
To your glory be our worship and witness. Amen.¹

¹ Prayers from the National 100th Anniversary Service of the United Church of Canada

Lighting of Christ Candle

- **Prayer:**

As we light this Christ Candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

- **Sung Response**

There is Room for All MV62

Peace of Christ

Theme Conversation: Breath of God

Children's Song: MV48 I Can Feel You Near Me God vs1 and chorus

The Story: Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7, 5:16-26

Reader: Larry Brockelbank

Acts 2:1-4

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Galatians 4:1-7

4 My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than those who are enslaved, though they are the owners of all the property, 2 but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. 3 So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Galatians 5:16-26

16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of

the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Fruit of the Spirit

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Song for Reflection: VU387 Loving Spirit

Sermon: Spirit Filled People

Life and Work of the Church

Offering of Thanksgiving

If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul
Harold S. Kushner

- **Offertory Music: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need – St. Paul's Choir**
- **Offertory Response: MV191 What Can I Do?**

Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Reader: Sheila Thompson

Holy One,
We are your church, your people gathered.
Since the beginning, you have been with us.
In the dry and desert-like moments,
when decline and death surround us,
you teach us that we need you and to trust in you.
When these truths have been remembered, your
people have flourished.

We have been together as
The United Church of Canada for 100 years.

On this historic threshold,
we remember yet again
that we live and move and
have our being in you.
It is time to dance with the Holy Spirit
as we move past this moment.

Empower us loving God,
to live by your Spirit,
unafraid of where She is taking us.
Now is the time to dig deep in our faith!
To dare to be your resurrection people,
for Christ's Way is our way.
Let us be alive by your Spirit's power!
Awaken us to your moving among us even now
so we can boldly follow your call into tomorrow.
AMEN!

Our Mother/Father who art in heaven...
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Song for the Journey: VU375 Spirit of Gentleness

- **Extinguishing of the Candles**
- **Blessing**
- **Closing: Halle Halle Halle**

Postlude

Beyond Sunday: Indigenous Day of Prayer

Ten years ago the Truth and Reconciliation Report was released. Within it are 94 "Calls to Action." Most of them call upon each of us to learn. To learn about the past, to learn about each other, to learn about the way that institutions have impacted First Nations and Metis. There are actions that can be undertaken by individuals, schools, churches, the medical profession, the legal system, and more. September 30 has been set aside as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as "Orange Shirt Day."

June 21 is Indigenous People's Day. The United Church has designated the Sunday before it as, Indigenous Day of Prayer. The focus of these days is about what is happening now. It is a day to celebrate and honour achievements. It is a day to offer thanks. It is a day to sing and dance and pray. It is also a great day to learn. Who are the Indigenous actors, singers, and artists who are carrying Indigenous stories in creative ways? Who are the First Nations lawyers and doctors who are tending to Indigenous and Canadian communities? Who are the Inuit leaders guiding their people and Canada?

The residential school system was designed to extinguish First Nations, Inuit, and Metis culture and language. June 21 is a day to celebrate and honour resiliency and the continuing presence of unique Indigenous communities and cultures across Canada.

Let us give thanks to our Creator
for the Creator is always with us.

**God is with us in the call of a loon
and in the flight of an eagle.**

Our Creator is with us in the changing of the seasons.

**God is with us when we gather together
and when we are alone.**

Our Creator is with us in our giftedness
and in our search for new understandings of ourselves,
new visions of our communities.

Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

—A prayer from *The Dancing Sun* (United Church of Canada/Anglican Church of Canada), alt., for Aboriginal Sunday