

**Pentecost Sunday– May 31, 2020**  
**St. Albert United Church**

COMMUNITY WELCOME <https://youtu.be/-0Mkw4yECJA>

Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to St. Albert United Church on this Pentecost Sunday as we gather through the wonder of virtual means. Every year at Pentecost the Church celebrates that the Community of Christ founded in love, acceptance and inclusion open to all.

*As we come together, we acknowledge that we do so in the traditional lands of Treaty 6 First Nations and a significant trading community of the Métis Nation.*

We also affirm all are welcome to share fully in our life and work regardless of age, race, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, belief, economic circumstance, ability or background. St. Albert United Church: a place where EVERYONE has room to grow.

If you have a concern regarding someone who is ill, grieving or in need, please inform the ministers.

Note that for the songs/hymns there is a link for the words and music. Simply copy and paste.

***We gather, cultivating space for everyone...***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We've come to worship God, who makes streams flow from rock,  
who turns the parched earth into springs of water,  
who sends the rain from heaven  
and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.

As the deer thirsts for flowing streams, so we thirst for You, O God.  
Come, let's worship our life-giving God,  
who pours out living water on all who thirst.

~ Written by Christine Longhurst. Posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/> Used with permission.

### GATHERING PRAYER:

Send your Spirit upon us this, O God.  
Touch us with the flames of your love.  
Stir us with the power of your word.  
Keep us strong in faith and grounded in truth.  
Then, send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to share the love of Jesus with everyone. Amen

Written by Jean Leckie, Gathering, Pentecost 1 2020, page 28. Used with permission.

### OPENING SONG: “Look at the World”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4k8oVf9v78>

### TIME FOR ALL AGES:

#### The Pentecost Story for Children

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjQ\\_XDPlis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjQ_XDPlis)

### SONG: “No More Waiting”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEyyJuZxIHk>

### *We listen, attentive to the voice of Jesus*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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During the Festival of Pentecost, a small crowd gathered in a room on the highest floor of a house in Jerusalem to wait for the manifestation of the promise Jesus made before his ascension.

The promise was that the followers of Jesus would be baptized, not with water, but with the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit would give the people power to be witnesses of Jesus, in word or deed, in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

A Reading from the Book of Acts:

Acts 2:1-21

### **The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

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

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

### **Peter Addresses the Crowd**

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘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.

<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

- <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The following Gospel reading takes place when Jesus is in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, not the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost).

Although not mentioned often in the New Testament, the Festival of Tabernacles was one of the “big three” annual festivals (along with Passover and Pentecost) for which adult Jewish males were expected to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It originally started as a harvest celebration, by the time of Jesus it had also taken on the significance of remembering God's provision for the people of Israel during their wilderness wanderings.

It is significant that on the last day of this festival, in which water is an important symbol, Jesus declares: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink; and the one who believes in me -- just as the scripture says -- from that one's innermost being will flow rivers of living water” (7:37-38)

A Reading from the Gospels:

John 7:37-39

### **Rivers of Living Water**

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, <sup>38</sup> and let the one who believes in me drink. As<sup>[a]</sup> the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer's heart<sup>[b]</sup> shall flow rivers of living water.’” <sup>39</sup> Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit,<sup>[c]</sup> because Jesus was not yet glorified.

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SILENT REFLECTION:

*We take a few moments to reflect on all we have heard.*

HYMN: VU 375 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTbQiUVdVMQ>

MESSAGE: “The Christ’s Church Open to All” - Rev. Deborah Hoekstra

<https://youtu.be/L1qk96x7tWY>

CLOSING PRAYERS YOUTUBE LINK

[https://youtu.be/a\\_ITyat7MQ](https://youtu.be/a_ITyat7MQ)

ANTHEM: “Holy Spirit Living Breath of God” - Keith & Kristyn Getty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDYjn-YdnD4>

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR PENTECOST:

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with your love.

Open our eyes to see the presence of God all around us,  
in the stillness of this sacred space,  
in the joys and celebrations of our lives,  
in the tragedies and struggles that break our hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
and comfort those who grieve.  
Grant them the peace that only you can bring.  
Stir within us a trust in life beyond death,  
as we ponder the mysteries of Christ’s resurrection  
and the hope we have in new and everlasting life.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
and bring wholeness to the sick.

Strengthen those who are weak;  
heal the wounded and broken;  
give rest to the weary.  
Come, Holy Spirit,  
and inspire our warring world to seek peace,  
to love our enemies,  
to put away our weapons,  
to care for those who have served.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
and ignite a fire in our bones,  
a passion for justice that cannot be quenched  
until all of your children are loved,  
until no one is marginalized or oppressed,  
until everyone has the opportunity to thrive,  
until the world is transformed and renewed.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
and revive your church.  
Liberate us from complacency and apathy;  
inspire us with Christ's vision for a world reborn;  
help us to recognize our gifts for ministry  
and to use them in service of others;  
transform our hearts and our minds;  
fill us with love that overflows;  
remind us that there is no greater calling  
than to love you with all that we are  
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Gracious God,  
give us a glimpse of your kingdom  
emerging around us  
and drawing us into the new things  
you are doing in the world.

It is for your kingdom that we now pray,  
filled with your Spirit,  
using the words Jesus taught us.

~ Written by John W. Vest, and posted on **John Vest**. <http://johnvest.com/> Used with permission.  
Adapted for use at St. Albert UC.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Andrea Bocelli and Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEplqV0scyo>

### SHARING OF GIFTS

It is very important that we remember to continue to share our gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God's people. Please, consider continuing to support agencies and associations which have relied on your financial support prior to these changing world circumstances. We recognize that during these difficult times, personal finances may be severely diminished. However, please consider contributing financially as you are able to support St. Albert United Church's ministry. Expenses continue even with the suspension of services and operations.

**Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources.**

([www.stalbertunited.ca](http://www.stalbertunited.ca))

### SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S WORK

Reach out in a variety of ways to your family, friends, and fellow congregation members—connect with and support each other.

**Please check the church website for updates and information.**

([www.stalbertunited.ca](http://www.stalbertunited.ca))

HYMN: VU 373 "As Comes the Breath of Spring"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1N0kU3Nu\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1N0kU3Nu_o)

**PRAYER FOR JUSTICE:**

God, the Holy Spirit,  
You are the restless breath of love that sweeps through the world.  
You move where you will, breaking down barriers,  
Stirring hearts to change, making all things possible.  
Inspire each one of us to hunger and thirst for justice!  
Come, Spirit of God,  
Sweep through our world bringing great change.  
May the bounty of your goodness be shared more justly,  
So all may share in the rich blessings of your creation.  
And, for us, bring transformation in our praying and living,  
So that we may act justly, love mercy,  
And walk humbly with you all the days of our lives.  
Amen.

~ posted on the **Third Space** website. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog> Used with permission.

**BLESSING:**

Go out into the world,  
and labour to bring forth new life.  
Dream dreams, pursue visions  
and speak of God's goodness  
in the words of those who would hear.

And may the God who breathed life into creation be your delight.  
May Christ Jesus give hope to your dreaming,  
and may the Holy Spirit, your advocate and supporter,  
.....set your hearts ablaze with a passion for peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
...**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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**MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

