



## West River United Church

Minister: Rev. Austin Jago

and all members of West River United Church

Worship on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10:00 am

Pentecost Sunday

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

---

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE PENTECOST/ CHRIST CANDLE

(light the Candle)

ONE: O God, as light comes from this candle,

**ALL: May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,  
Warming our hearts and brightening our way.**

ONE: May Christ our Saviour,

**ALL: Bring life into the darkness of this world,  
And to us, as we wait upon his Spirit to come among us.**

 Never Ending Joy – MV 40 (*projected*)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Acts 2) - We Wait in this upper room this morning-

ONE: Like the ancient followers who waited for days in an upstairs, prayer room,

**ALL: We wait before God**

ONE: And though we wait in faith, we are not certain how God will come to us.

**ALL: And still we wait, certain that the wait is worthwhile.**

ONE: For, those who waited long ago received an outpouring of God's promised Spirit.

**ALL: And so, in faith, we have come to wait before God!**

OPENING PRAYER (Come among us Holy Spirit)

ONE: Loving God, you have led each of us here today.

Though most of us have heard the story of Pentecost, restore in us the ability to receive the wonder and the awe of the outpouring of Your Spirit upon humankind long ago.

**ALL: Help us gathered here today, hear this familiar story with new ears, that we might depart from this place with newly discovered zeal, declaring that you are alive in us, your body, the church. Amen.**

RECEIVE THE SPIRIT

LET'S PONDER

ONE: To what new understanding might the Holy Spirit be currently guiding us?

WELCOME

ONE: Welcome one another to this time of celebration and praise.  
(welcome one another)

♪ 'This Is the Day' – MV 122 (*projected*)

#### CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

♪ 'Dance with the Spirit' MV 156 (*projected*)

♪ 'How Then Shall I Live' (*projected*)

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Acts 2:1-21** The Spirit comes on the Day of Pentecost (*New International Version*)

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

<sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them

were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. <sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being

spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

<sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." <sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and (.../over)

glorious day of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

**John 14:8-17** God will send you the Spirit of truth (*New International Version*)

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.


HYMN MV 135 'Called by Earth and Sky' (*projected*)

MEDITATION - Struck by Lightning

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRESENTATION OF SELF AND GIFTS TO GOD

 'I Saw the Rich Ones' – MV 127 vs 1 (*projected*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*in unison*)

**ALL: Gracious and loving God, Christ promised that those who believe in you will do the works that he did.**

**We have gathered in this congregation to worship you, and to serve you, and serve the ministries you have given us, in support of our community and the world.**

**Receive our humble offerings as our spiritual worship.** (*...lover*)

**May our gifts be used for your glory, as we work toward doing the greater work you promised that we would do in your name. Amen.**

PRAYER TIME

PRAYER OF HEALING AND RENEWAL (*in unison*)

**ALL: O God, we know that out of chaos emerges creativity and new possibilities in the Spirit if we allow the Spirit to move among us. Too often we would rather focus on the chaos and block the movement of the Spirit, lest it move us into new, uncharted realms. Forgive us, God, when we allow our fear to block our faith and our self-interest to stifle the Spirit. Lead us forward in your ways. Amen**

AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S GRACE

**ONE: God's forgiveness wipes the slate clean and gives us an opportunity to begin again, unencumbered.**

**ALL: We accept the gift of forgiveness and pledge to share it with others. Thanks be to God.**

♪ 'How Deep The Peace' – MV 95 (*projected*)

PASTORAL PRAYER

QUIET TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: Through Jesus Christ our Lord...  
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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  
forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN VU 333 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' (*projected*)

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

ONE: May you be transformed by the fires of Pentecost

-may you be encouraged, emboldened, and empowered by God's Spirit to leave the safety of your hiding place.

-and may you be given the courage to bear any consequences of speaking the words of healing that come from God.

**ALL: We leave the safety of this upper room-**

**-willing to be transformed**

**-willing to risk being misunderstood or ridiculed,**

**-claiming the power of the Holy Spirit**

**-to make a difference in the world. Amen.**

♪ 'Go Make A Difference' – MV 209 vs 3 (*projected*)

Liturgy and Prayers Rev. Austin Jagoe © 2016

Pray for our sisters and brothers of First United Church in Fort McMurray, and for all those affected by the wildfires including all the people of Fort McMurray, first responders, and their families and friends. You may wish to use the prayer available below. (Credit: United Church of Canada)

### **Prayer for Fort McMurray**

*God of our ancestors,  
in a world where chaos and ruin are as close as the wind,  
where fires rage out of control in Fort McMurray destroying homes, businesses, and  
livelihoods;  
Help us to find strength and courage from the stories of those who took refuge in you  
during their times of trial and despair.*

*And so with the psalmist who cried laments,  
we pray for all who are in need of food, shelter, and healing...  
[add specific prayer requests or space for silent prayers]*

*With the exiled people,  
we pray for the tens of thousands of people evacuated and those who have lost their  
homes, churches, community centres, playgrounds and workplaces...[silent prayers]*

*With the disciples,  
we pray and give thanks for the emergency responders and all those who provide  
moments of generosity, healing, and human kindness...*

*With our companions in Christ,  
we pray for the ministry and people of First United Church in Fort McMurray.*

*In a world where safety and security can be fleeting,  
where people cry out in grief, seeking rest and comfort,  
Bind us together in your love as we pray the prayer of Jesus...  
[recite the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice]*

*Amen.*