

THE DAY OF PENTECOST
MAY 31, 2020
10:30 A.M.

*Crescent Fort Rouge is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender expression
Our mission is to invite all who would join us, to celebrate the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, through worship, music, fellowship and outreach, to help us build a fairer and more joyful world*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY

We gather for work and worship on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota nations, and the homeland of the Metis people. Long before adventurers, colonizers, settlers, refugees, or immigrants from other places came to the place we call Manitoba, the people of Canada's first nations held this land as a sacred trust from the Creator. They offered assistance to the first travelers to this place and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. May our relationships as settlers and Original Peoples be based in honour and deep respect.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Marc: In the beginning...
the earth was barren, with no form of life;

It was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness.

But the Spirit of God was moving over the water.

And when God said, "I command light to shine,"
light started shining.

For those of us who seek to follow in his way,
Jesus is the light of the world--
The light no darkness can overcome.

We light this flame to affirm that new light
is ever waiting to break through
to enlighten our ways:
that new truth is ever waiting
to break through to illumine our minds,
and that new love is ever waiting
to break through to warm our hearts.

May we be open to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us.

Deep calls unto deep,
life calls unto life,
light calls unto light.

And where the Spirit's flame burns bright,
where there is health and truth and light,
Christ is living, Christ is moving,
Christ will resurrect the world.

Our light may seem small and flickering,
But it bears the flame to another and another,
just as the flame of love is passed
from person to person.

We are a rainbow people, and in all our diversity
Christ's light shines through us, making us one

Here is God's good kin-dom!

INVITATION INTO STILLNESS

Marc: Let us now take a moment to settle into this time.

Hear and feel the quiet of this place
and this community of people.

Hear and feel your quiet breathing.

Inhale the good gifts that God provides,
and exhale all of the things
that you need to release.

Breathe in strength. *(Pause for breath...)*
Exhale exhaustion. *(Pause for breath...)*

Breathe in freedom. *(Pause for breath...)*
Exhale all that holds you back. *(Pause for breath...)*

Breathe in a new sense of direction. *(Pause for breath...)*
Exhale the paths you no longer want to use.
(Pause for breath...)

Breathe in hope. *(Pause for breath...)*
Exhale self-doubt. *(Pause for breath...)*

Breathe in unconditional love. *(Pause for breath...)*
Exhale distrust and hate. *(Pause for breath...)*

In this time of worship,
may our minds be open to new truth,
and our hearts be receptive to love.

Let us open ourselves to the Spirit of Christ
in our midst.

Voice 1: It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

Voice 2: There were many staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world.

Voice 1: When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck.

Voice 2: They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Voice 3: Spanish and Portuguese,

Voice 4: Swahili and French

Voice 5: Russian and German

Voice 6: Polish and Ukrainian,

Voice 7: Mandarin and Japanese

Voice 8: Farsi and Hindi,

Voice 9: Nepalese and Patois

Voice 10: Cree and Dakota

Voice 11: Hebrew and Arabic

Voice 12: “They’re speaking our languages,
describing God’s mighty works!”

Voice 1: Their heads were spinning;
they couldn’t make head or tail of any of it.

Voice 2: They talked back and forth, confused:
“What’s going on here?”

Voice 1: Others joked, “They’re drunk on cheap wine.”

Voice 2: That’s when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency:

Voice 1: “Friends--all of you who are visiting Jerusalem,
listen carefully and get this story straight.

These people aren’t drunk as some of you suspect.
They haven’t had time to get drunk—
it’s only nine o’clock in the morning.

This is what the prophet Joel said would happen:

Voice 2: “In the Last Days,” God says,
“I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters;

Your young ones will see visions,
your old ones dream dreams.

When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit
on those who serve me,
men and women both,
and they'll prophesy.

I'll set wonders in the sky above
and signs on the earth below,

Blood and fire and billowing smoke,
the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Day of the Lord arrives,
the Day tremendous and marvelous;

And whoever calls out for help
to me, God, will be saved."

AN INVITATION INTO CELEBRATION

Marc: On that first Pentecost
God breathed new life into the disciples
and changed them from listless and disillusioned
men and women,
into enthusiastic, excited, and exuberant
witnesses to the power of resurrection.

Voice 1: The Spirit came
and the Church was born,
in wind and fire
and words of power.

Voice 2: The Spirit came, blowing away fear
and weak hearts were stronger.

Voice 3: The Spirit came
as God's word foretold,
with dreams and signs,
visions and wonders.

Voice 4: The Spirit came
and is here today,
to feed the hearts
of a world that hungers.

Marc: May God's Spirit so fill us this day that we, too,
may take on a new dedication and devotion
to the ongoing work of Christ in the world,
through the same Holy Spirit. Amen.

WE REFLECT ON THE GOOD NEWS

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

WORDS OF INVITATION

Marc: Hidden away in a locked room
for fear of the outside world,
the disciples broke bread and shared cup
and remembered all that Jesus
had done and said,
and the Spirit of Christ came upon them,
and a locked room could no longer hold them.

On Pentecost the world became a bit bigger.

The languages around the Lord's table
became more diverse.

New brothers and sisters were to be seen,
and the safety of being believers
with only those just like us was gone.

Carrying a vision of creation healed and restored--
we welcome all in the name of Christ.

Invited to the table where none shall go hungry--
we gather as Christ's guests and friends.

The open table speaks of the shining promise
of barriers broken and creation healed.

In holy communion
we are commissioned to feed
as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.

Before he parted from his friends,
Jesus prepared a last supper
to share with them.

He took some bread, and gave thanks for it.

Then he broke it, and gave it to them.

"Take and eat. This is my body," he said.

When supper was all but over,
he took a cup of wine,
gave thanks for it,
and gave it to them to drink.

"This cup is the new relationship with God,
sealed with my blood.

Take and drink from it. It is for all."

Now, following Jesus example,
we take loaf and cup,
the ordinary things of this world,
through which God will bless us.

Let us pray.

In the shadows of chaos
you breathed, Creator God,
your Spirit moving over the waters of life.

You opened your hands,
filling all creation with goodness and beauty.

You gathered up earth's dust,
shaping us in your image,
filling our lungs with Spirit's life.

But drunk on the new wine
of human arrogance and desire,
we listened to the competing voices
of evil, sin, and death,
believing they spoke the truth.

With sighs too deep for words,
you continued to call us home,
speaking through teachers and prophets.

When we hid our faces from you,
you looked upon us in compassion,
and sent Jesus Christ
to restore us to life with you.

At his baptism,
the Spirit named him your Beloved;

In the wilderness,
the Spirit strengthened him
to withstand the seductions of the Evil One;

Spirit-anointed for ministry,
Jesus sang good news to the poor,
set free those imprisoned by despair,
gave sight to the blind
and fed the hungry,
blessed little children,
and ate with sinners.

When his service of tender mercies
was finished,
he went to the Cross,
suffering and dying for all humanity,
and was raised to new life,
as a promise to all your children.

As we come to this Table,
we remember his promise to always be with us.

Baptized by the Holy Spirit,
and purified in the fire of obedience,
we proclaim that faith which is ours.

Send your power and strength to us, Lord,
as we gather here in love for you,
and upon these gifts of loaf and cup.

Make them to be for us real food and real drink,
that we might be Christ's true body,
empowered by your Spirit to give glory and
honour to you through the life we share with all.

SHARING THE LOAF AND CUP

Marc: Take the bread that you have offered;
With thankful hearts we have blessed it,
With open hands, and hearts overflowing
receive it.

This cup is full; like our hearts,
it overflows with a thirst for justice.
Come and drink from it.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Marc: Filled with the gifts of the Spirit,
made whole for the good of earth,
let us give our thanks to God.

As Christ promised,
you have poured out your Holy Spirit
upon your people
and upon the gifts of the bread and the cup.

As we offer our thanks to you
for the gift of the Spirit
In our lives and in the world,
may the flames of Pentecost
kindle compassion in our hearts;

May the tongues of fire
ignite our calls for justice for all people;

May the good news
spoken in every tongue and every place,
unite us in service to others
and in faith in you.

Inflame in us
a passion for justice and equality,
that we may know
the cleansing of our prejudices and fears
and proclaim your freedom boldly,
caressing your earth with humility.

Infuse us with your longings
for wholeness and happiness,
that we may reach out
to those who are hurting and disordered,
enfolding one another
with your love and tenderness.

Be within us in our journeying,
gently guiding us along right paths
that we may be led
towards transformation
and new beginnings
in our world.

Touch us anew
releasing in us
all that we are afraid of
that we may know
your acceptance of us,
and freely accept and embrace others.

Hold us in our powerlessness:
that we may know your strength
and become a voice for the voiceless,
healing for the wounded
and empowerment for the weak.

Be tender with us
and show us your mercy,
that we may humbly learn of you
and not be afraid to be
your prophets in the world.

Draw near to us
in all grief, confusion and pain;

In your graciousness
bring hope, consolation and renewal,
that many may look up
and discover you in the midst.

Be our playfulness,
that we may leap and laugh
and enter your joy.

Give us confidence in life,
assurance in death,
and hope ever after.

Then, when the groaning of creation
is turned to hymns of praise,
and all people gather around your Table
on that great and glorious Day,
we will sing our joy to you
through all eternity:

God in Community, Holy in One,
Gather all our prayers together,
as we say the words that Jesus taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our 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
forever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF BLESSING AND SENDING

Marc: When Jesus left his disciples,
he did not leave them alone.

He promised that the Holy Spirit
would be present in their lives,
and he gave them an amazing gift:
his peace, the peace of Christ.

Through the Spirit, this gift lives still,
and it is ours to share with others.

Go in peace, and be transformed,
that you may change the world. Amen.