

Sunday Worship on June 8, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Gord Osborne)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 384 O breath of life, come sweeping through us
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 401 O Spirit of the living God

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: John 14:8-17
- Second reading: Psalm 104:23-35 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Acts 2:1-21
- Sermon: **Born of fire, sent in power**
- Hymn BOP 284 Revive your work, O Lord
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 475 I am the church! You are the church!

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Praise and glory to you, Spirit of God, our comfort and strength.

Let us sing praises to God as long as we live;

Praise and glory to you, Spirit of God, our comfort and strength.

May our worship be pleasing to God, ever Three and ever One.

Let us praise the LORD!

Praise song – BOP 384 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, from our scattered lives, we gather to praise you, for you are great and wonderful; wise and compassionate.

With joyful hearts, we celebrate the gifts and guidance of your Holy Spirit. At the dawn of creation, you sent your Holy Spirit to bring life.

Over the centuries, your Holy Spirit equipped your people to proclaim your love and justice. Through the flames of Pentecost, your Holy Spirit gave birth to the church with energy and wonder. Today, your Holy Spirit is at work in the world, bringing renewal and hope here and everywhere.

Transform us by your Holy Spirit to become more faithful followers of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

Almighty God, you poured out your Holy Spirit to guide your disciples and empower your church with gifts for ministry. We confess that we often resist the Spirit's guidance. The challenge to change makes us uncomfortable. We overlook the gifts others can offer and fail to live out Christ's love for the world. Forgive us, O God. Send your Holy Spirit to us again to open our minds and hearts to the challenges in ministry you set before us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (The Lord's Prayer:)
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear and believe this promise of the good news:
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old life has passed away and new life has begun.
Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
You are set free to live life anew in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you. *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

Praise song – BOP 401 O Spirit of the living God

Prayer for Children

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: John 14:8-17
- Second reading: Psalm 104:23-35 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Acts 2:1-21

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Born in fire, sent in power

Today is Pentecost Sunday. A day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. Not a church built with bricks and stained glass, but a living community empowered by the very breath of God.

But think about this. The Church wasn't born in comfort or stillness. It was born in fire, wind, and languages no one could understand. It was noisy. It was confusing. And it was powerful.

Acts 2 shows us the moment the promise Jesus gave in Acts 1:8 was fulfilled. **Acts 1:8, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.”** Pentecost is that moment. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. And everything changed.

Today, I want us to remember that this same Holy Spirit is with us. And because of that, we too are born of fire and sent in power.

Acts 2:1, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.”

The disciples had been waiting just as Jesus told them. Waiting expectantly, patiently, and prayerfully. **Then suddenly, the sound of a violent wind fills the house. Then tongues of fire rest on each of them. And they are all filled with the Holy Spirit.**

This is no ordinary moment. This is the beginning of something brand new.

Wind and fire, these are symbols rich with biblical meaning.

Wind is the Holy Spirit that hovered over the waters at creation. The breath that gave life to Adam. The breath that brought dry bones to life in Ezekiel’s vision.

Fire is God’s presence at the burning bush. The pillar of fire that led Israel. The purifying fire that cleanses and empowers.

And here, both symbols are present. **Wind and Fire. God is doing something powerful.**

And notice that all of them were filled. Not just the apostles. Not just the leaders. All who were gathered.

The Holy Spirit is not a gift for the few. It’s for all believers. For you. For me. The same Spirit who filled the early disciples lives in us today.

Once they were filled, the disciples begin to speak. Not in their own languages, but in the languages of others. And the crowd is shocked. **V7, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”**

People from many nations hear the gospel in their own language. This is more than a miracle. **It is a message.**

At the **Tower of Babel in Genesis 11**, the pride of humanity challenged the authority of God. God caused confusion by making them speak different languages. And they were scattered. But, here, **at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit brings understanding and unity in diversity. What was broken is now being restored.**

Of course, some mocked, **v13, “They are filled with new wine.”** They’ve had too much wine.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are given the words we need. We need words of comfort, truth, and courage. Not just for preaching sermons, but for everyday conversations, prayers, and witness.

The Holy Spirit can use your voice. God can speak through you. God uses ordinary people like you and me to speak extraordinary truth.

Peter stood up in front of the people. He said to the crowd. Who was Peter? What did he do? Isn't he the one who denied Jesus three times? But now, same Peter was stand before the crowd. He was empowered by the Spirit. He preached the good news in confidence.

He quoted the prophet Joel. **V17, "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 young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."**

All will receive the Holy Spirit.

What's the goal of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all people?
It is that **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**

This is the birth of the Church. Not a religious club or a spiritual retreat. But **a Spirit-filled, mission-driven, gospel-sharing movement.** The fire falls, and the gospel spreads like wildfire.

Pentecost is not just a past event. It is a living reality. The Spirit continues to move, speak, and save. The Church continues to go out and proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

The disciples could have stayed in the upper room. It would have been safe. Familiar. But the Holy Spirit drove them out into the streets, into the world. **Acts 1:8, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

The impact of the Holy Spirit spreads out through us.

That same Spirit is calling us today. The wind still blows. The fire still burns.

We are not alone. We are not weak. We are not powerless. The Spirit of God lives in us.

So let us go, not with fear, but with fire.
Not with hesitation, but with hope.
Not in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit.
Let us speak the gospel boldly.
Let us live as those who have been born of fire and sent in power.

This is the message of the Lord for us today. Amen.

Praise song – BOP 284 Revive your work, O Lord

Prayer for the people:

Gracious and powerful God, we give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit. The wind that rushed in, the fire that rested on your people, and the courage that filled the hearts of your people.

On this Pentecost Sunday, we remember.
You did not leave us alone. You filled your people with courage, and you still do the same to your people today.

Come, Holy Spirit. Breathe into us again.

Where there is fear, give us peace.

Where there is weariness, give us strength.

Where there is silence, give us a voice to speak your truth in love.

We remember and pray for those who are facing illness, grief, or uncertainty. Bring your comfort, your healing, and your peace.

We lift up those who feel forgotten or overwhelmed. Holy Spirit, remind them they are not alone.

We also pray for those who are going through challenges, for those struggling with relationships, finances, or making important decisions.

Lord, guide and sustain them. Make your presence known in their lives.

We pray for our church. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, not just today, but every day. Unite us across our differences. Give us hearts of compassion, give us hands ready to serve, and help us live our lives that reflect your love.

On this day of Pentecost, fill us once again, Lord. Set our hearts on fire, and send us out in your power. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen and living Lord and King, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

Pentecost celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit poured out on the Church, preparing Christ's followers to serve him. Our offering today will build up the ministry and mission of Christ's church here and everywhere, in his name. As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.
(BOP #830, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.)

Offering prayer:

Spirit of grace and power, bless the gifts we offer today so that they may accomplish surprising things in Jesus' name. Equip each of us, and all of us together, to proclaim the Good News with grace and power in the ways we have not yet dreamed possible. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 475 I am the church! You are the church!

Now, it is time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

The Spirit of the living God is in you. That makes you a church. The Holy Spirit poured the Fire down to you. The wild Wind came upon you. With God's power and presence, we are sent to where we are. What kind of life are you living? You are to live the life of God. You are God's church. Display the Good News and spread God's love and peace.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.