

# St. Paul's United Church

May 23rd – Pentecost Sunday

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

*Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.*

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Prelude

#### Greeting (Responsive):

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

#### Land Acknowledgement

**Scripture: The Birth of the Church & Christ's promise fulfilled:  
Acts 2:1-4**

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Call to Worship (Responsive):

Sometimes we are like those disciples so long ago:

**Huddled in fear of what others will think,  
of what others will do,  
of what God will do.**

Sometimes we are like passive bystanders:

**Making fun of what we do not understand,  
tearing down what is sacred to another  
waiting until we are sure it's okay.**

Yet, always God is with us:

**Nudging us like a gentle breeze,  
stirring us with flames of hope,  
speaking to us with words engraved in our hearts.**

On this day of Pentecost we cannot deny God's presence, so we  
come,

**to be touched again by the Holy Spirit  
to be freed from our upper rooms  
to be engaged for the sake of God's love.**

In short, we come to worship God!

-adapted from prayer written by Beth Merrill Neel

#### Opening Prayer

**Hymn:** Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us VU 198  
Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,  
Come with Pentecostal power;  
Give the church a stronger vision,

Help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation,  
Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,  
Still the church is called to mission  
That God's love shall be made know.

We would raise our hallelujahs  
For the grace of yesteryears;  
For tomorrow's unknow pathway,  
Hear, O God, our humble prayers.  
In the church's pilgrim journey  
You have led us all the way,  
Still in presence move before us,  
Fire by night and cloud by day.  
Come, O spirit, dwell among us,  
Give us words of fire and lame,  
Help our feeble lips to praise you,  
Glorify your holy name.  
God, all holy, Son and Spirt,  
Three in one: what mystery!  
We would sing our loud hosannas  
Now and through eternity.

#### Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**We aren't ready, Lord. It is easier for us to hide in the  
upper rooms of our lives, to let the world go by and not  
acknowledge your presence. But you have challenged us  
to come alive again with your love and words of healing  
mercy. We aren't ready, Lord. With so much change in the  
world, we dream of going back to what was before but like  
your disciples, we have changed and the world has  
changed. Forgive our hesitant witness and our complacent  
spirits. Heal our fears and our wounds. Help us to be  
agents of healing and hope for others. Challenge and  
inspire us to overcome our feelings of inadequacy and  
remind us that you have called us beloved and have given  
us what we need to proclaim your Good News. In Jesus'  
Name, we pray. AMEN.**

Adapted from Ministry Matters May 23, 2021

#### Assurance of God's Love

**Today's Scripture:** Galatians 4:1-7  
This is the Word of our God.

**Praise be to you, O Creator.**

**Message :** To be an heir, life in the spirit.

#### Anthem

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

**Abba, Father. You have adopted us as heirs of your kingdom and we have inherited the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy fire of the Spirit refines us, making us generous givers, so we offer back all that you have bestowed upon us. Bless the gifts of our hands, our time and our wallets for the sake of the one whose fire brings light and life to all the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (Responsive)

Holy God,

**Holy Breath, Wind, Flame, Spirit:**

Set our hearts of fire.

**Burn off all that is dry and lifeless,**

And grow us anew.

**Let your Spirit dance within our spirits,**

Uprooting us when we have been unmoved

**And refreshing all that is stale in our lives.**

Breathe on us your peace

**That we will share that peace with all we meet.**

And hear the silent prayers of our hearts.

*(Time of Silent Prayer).....*

Holy God we lift our prayers,

**Not because you need to be informed of what rests on our hearts,**

but because in reaching out to you we come to know your presence,

**in reaching out for you, we grow in spirit and in truth.**

Continue to touch us with your spirit that comforts us, challenges us, and ignites us in your love.

### Lord's Prayer

#### Hymn:

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

VU 375

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains, from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,  
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,  
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.

## SENDING FORTH

### Commissioning (Responsive):

From our gathering the Spirit drives us out

**out into the world to live boldly as Children of God**

Go now to proclaim the mercy, joy and freedom found in Christ's love.

### Benediction

### Postlude

#### St. Paul's United Contact Information

**Church Office phone** number is 458-1183

**Email** is [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

**Eric Hotte Church Manager** is in the church Sunday through Thursday. The office would love to hear from you!

**Etransfer** is an easy way of giving wherever you are physically from your phone or computer, this helps to support the work and ministry of the church. **Etransfer Email** is [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

**Emergency Pastoral care** for **May** it is Bev Sharpe 506-471-4326