

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield.

### **Announcements**

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. We live on the traditional lands of the Chippewa and Haudenosaunee, 'People of the Longhouse,' Anishinabewaki, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We recognize the harm incurred through colonization and we acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We affirm the 94 Calls to Action, refute the Doctrine of Discovery, and accept the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There is much for us to learn. We commit to growing in healthy relationship, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation, with the First Nations of this land.

**HYMN Praise God**

**#306**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]**

One Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit

**All Inspire our thoughts and actions. Refresh our commitment to serve**

One Stir in our hearts, Holy Spirit

**All Fill us with energy to spread joy in God's creation. Let us worship God.**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Spirit of God, your energy moves in us to help us face each new day. You are as close to us as our breath, giving us life. You refresh us like the breeze on a warm afternoon. You challenge us like a strong wind, rousing our attention. Holy Spirit, open our eyes to the wonder of God's mystery. Open our hearts to the warmth of Christ's mercy. We offer our prayers and praise with love and loyalty to you God our Creator and Christ our shepherd. Make us one in worship and witness by your grace and power.

God of wind and flame, at Pentecost your Spirit inspired the followers of Christ to dare great things in his name. We confess that we lack daring and ignore the flame of your Spirit among us. Forgive us we pray. Send the Spirit to ignite the embers of our faith

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<sup>1</sup> PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

and our passion for mission and ministry. Amen

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live in the renewing power of the Spirit. Thanks be to God for this most generous gift. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn Spirit of gentleness (v 1-2) 399**

### **To Hear The Word Of God**

#### **Prayer For Illumination and Scripture**

Spirit of God, at Pentecost you created new understanding among Jesus' gathered disciples. So fill us with new understanding of the Scriptures this day. Energize us to act faithfully in the name of Jesus Christ, God's Living Word. Amen.

#### **Scripture**

Historical	Acts 2:1-21	<b>[B#119/W#123]</b>
Psalm	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	<b>[B#555/W#614]</b>
Epistle	1 Corinthians 12:4-13	<b>[B#174/W#182]</b>
Gospel	John 20:19-23	<b>[B#115/W#119]</b>

May God bless our understanding of this, God's holy word. **The word of the Lord.**

#### **Message**

O holy One, by the power of your Holy Spirit at work in the word read and proclaimed, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you. Amen.

It is good to be in this sanctuary with all of you gathered together in the pews, to worship God in community. Our reading today begins with, "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place."

The book of Acts continues from the end of Luke's gospel. It shares the story of the early church from the ascension of Jesus through to the time of Paul arriving as a prisoner in Rome. The first part of Acts tells of the disciples' witness in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. Today we enter into the time after the ascension of Jesus, when the Holy Spirit descended with wind and fire upon the disciples at Pentecost. Those gathered were able to

speak in other languages, although some who are outside of the group suggest they were filled with wine.

Pentecost, from the Greek number fifty, points to the fifty days after Passover. This is the traditional Jewish Shavuot. The word Shavuot means "weeks" as it celebrates the end of the seven-week period between Passover and Shavuot. The Torah was given by God to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai on Shavuot more than 3,000 years ago. During this holiday of Shavuot the Jewish people celebrate their acceptance of God's gift of the Torah. During Shavuot the disciples gathered along with many others who travelled great distances to gather together for the holiday.

HISTORICAL Acts 2:1-21 [B#119/W#123]

Jesus foretold of this event, when they would be empowered by the Advocate, also known as the Paraclete and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit would empower them to be his "witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". The Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak in other languages. The tongues of fire signal the presence of the Divine, of God's revelation. We look to scripture to find other signs of fire with the burning bush, the descent of God on Sinai, and the fiery chariot in the book of Daniel. John the Baptist prophesied of the one who would come to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

In our reading today, the rushing winds drew the crowds, residents and visitors, to the house where the disciples had gathered. When they arrived, they discovered that the disciples could speak different languages. There was no rational explanation. The disciples were speaking the diverse foreign languages of visitors from Asia Minor, Egypt, Libya, Rome, and other places.

The Spirit empowered the disciples to preach the Word and to be understood in every language. The Spirit creates awe-inspiring wonders and miracles of healing and sharing. The Holy Spirit was poured out by God to empower the church to share Christ's mission to the ends of the earth.

The beginning of Genesis describes the Spirit over the void as the life-giving breath of God. The Spirit appears in times of darkness and distress. The prophet Isaiah promised the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of knowledge and the fear of God. Spirit-led initiatives enable people to question existing religious and cultural practices.

2023 05 28

Diana Butler Bass wrote, "Pentecost is a story of creation, wherein wind, water, fire, and earth form a new world. Thus, these last days are not days of violent destruction of earth; the last days are only the days of violent destruction of all that God opposes — oppression, injustice, violence, cruelty, poverty, and inequity — they are the last days of God's distance from us. God with us. The body of God, Jesus' own people. The Spirit indwells. God is near, with, and within."

The Pentecost images seem to jump off the page. The tongues of fire, a rushing wind, and the gathered crowds. It can also lead us to realize that the story of Pentecost is about the beginning of the church and it is about the transforming Spirit of God. It is about the ways in which people have been transformed into much more than they ever knew possible. It is about the ways in which the divine disrupts and disorients our ways of experiencing life so that we can live in radical new ways.

Jesus spoke of the love in which God calls us to be neighbors. This is a love that we are to accept from God, to share with God, and to nurture with one another. This need to connect in agape love creates deeper understanding of one another. This agape embraces comforting, nurturing, praising, and taking action. We are called to extend our understanding of those we do not know, of those who do not hold the same opinions. We are called to love our neighbours around the world. How can we do this if we do not understand their hopes and their fears? How can we live in the way of Christ if we are not actively pursuing this relationship with our neighbours.

EPISTLE            1 Corinthians 12:4-13 [B#174/W#182]

Paul urged the Corinthians to demonstrate respect for Christ and for each other. He reminded them of the diversity gifts given by the Spirit for the common good. The diversity is important for the body of Christ to be complete.

Lori Wagner wrote, "Each time human beings encounter the true presence of the Holy Spirit their reaction is a kind of "flow." They are touched in a way that changes them, moves them, surprises them, elates them, and causes them to react with joy, thanks, and euphoric energy." Wagner continues with, "Jesus describes it this way: "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." That is exactly the way many have described the state of "flow" –a feeling of flowing freely in a state of total engagement and connection –body, mind, and soul. The Holy Spirit touches us in a way that causes us

2023 05 28

to erupt in a culmination of peak human emotion, one that heals us, energizes us, feeds us, and pleases us. One that causes us to become refreshed, confident, and ready to take on the world in a new and exciting way.”

In his epistle, Paul affirmed that our faith in Jesus Christ and our ability to do the work of the church are rooted in the Holy Spirit. When we recognize God as the source of spiritual gifts our faith communities become transformed beyond what we may think is possible. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

**Hymn Spirit of gentleness (v 3-4) #399**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD**

**QUOTE** Our stewardship calls us to explore ways of love & justice in respecting God's creation & in seeking its responsible use for the common good. Living Faith 2.4.2

At Pentecost, the gifts of the Spirit poured out on the Church, preparing Christ's followers to serve him in the world. We offer our gifts to God so the service of the Church will continue to flourish wherever the Spirit leads.

**Doxology** We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

**Invitation to the Table**

We come to the table to remember our past, to be here in our present, and to be mindful of our future with Christ. We remember Jesus declared that people will come from east and west and north and south to sit at the table in God's kingdom.

Friends in Christ, now is the time to re-form our relationship with God and to be re-formed by God's strength and grace. This meal comes not as a whole loaf and bottle to take away and relish in private. It comes in broken pieces and deep sips shared. We are reminded that there will always be enough for everyone who seeks a place at this table. So come, you who have much faith and you who have a little, you who have been here often and you who cannot recall this place. Our Saviour invites all people to share this feast as a foretaste of his kingdom. Remember – the Risen Christ has spread this joyful feast for you. Taste and see that God is good.

**Hymn I come with joy (v 1-3) #530**

**Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed [in unison] #539**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Story of the Table**

When we gather at this table, we remember how this meal began, how it has promised hope and new life to those who follow Jesus from one generation to the next. We gather and we remember bread and wine shared around a table one solemn, holy night. We share in the elements provided whether bread and wine, grape and wheat, crackers and water. As we share in the elements in the name of our Risen Christ, may our eyes be opened to recognize Jesus -present with us each day. And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us thank God for what we are about receive.

### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving [responsive] #564**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy One, on this World Communion Sunday, we offer you our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love, for we have seen your grace and power, rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair, bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life. And so we join our voices with all your creatures, high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power. Therefore, with choirs of angels and archangels and with those of every time and place, we give you praise and glory. We join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ. Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world. Even when we falter in discouragement,

even if we hesitate at the news that your great love has come back to embrace us, You will not let us go.

You call us by name to assure us of your love. You open your arms to welcome us back to your side. You spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and wine, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere.

In joyful anticipation of sharing these gifts, we proclaim our faith And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us Christ's body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole. As this bread and wine become a part of us, may we become a part of you, Jesus, united with you and with each other in love. Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name. And all the people say,

**Amen**

We boldly lift our voices to pray: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallow'ed 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. 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 Institution and Invitation**

Jesus, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,

'This is my body, which is for you: do this in remembrance of me.' [eat]

In the same way, he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.' [drink]

We break this bread, the communion in Christ's body once broken. We drink this cup, communion in Christ's blood once shed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us and we praise you for breaking into the world. Send us out in peace for we have seen, have heard, and been fed by your grace. Keep us faithful and alert for signs of Christ's coming and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light.

Spirit of grace and power, bless these gifts today so that they accomplish surprising things in Jesus' name. We offer ourselves, too, so that our lives may proclaim the Good News with your grace and power.

Loving God, by your Spirit, surround us with strength and love. Equip us to offer support for those who are near to us. We lift up couples recently entered into the sacred covenant of marriage. Guide them to live with you at the centre of their lives.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and give us energy to serve you in Christ's Church. Open our eyes to recognize needs for ministry and mission, and to equip us to meet new challenges in ways we haven't dared before. Open our hearts to lives caught up in stressful situations. Open our hands to share in the tasks that need doing, and open our lips in prayer and praise. Spirit of Power and Promise, Blow through us and renew our faith.

God of laughter, you call the little children to be protected by all who follow in your ways. We ask you to linger with the children who seek relationship with you and lift up Owen to your special care. Guide him to live in your good ways and help his grandparents to nurture him as your beloved.

God of light and love, draw near to those who must confront illness, loss or changing circumstances. We are thankful for healing and we are thankful for the end of suffering.

God of compassion, we ask you to linger with all who mourn Rudy and Danielle.

God of hope, we ask you to linger with all who are dealing with health challenges:

Stephani, Judith & Gerry; Carter, Jim & family; Rob, Valerie, Jim & Jane; Carl; Betty Lou; Ruth; Audrey & Grace; Don, Phyllis, and Shawn; and, Warren & Lori. We lift up all those who are on our hearts as they face immense challenges. Where new life is beginning and hope dawns; where there is laughter and joy, healing and positive change, where there is good news to celebrate, send your Spirit with rejoicing and gratitude. Joined together in



KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2023 05 28

Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all majesty and honor are yours, Holy One, forever and ever.

Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our voices. Hear our prayers. Let there be joy in Jerusalem and peace among all nations. We pray in the name of Christ, Amen

**Hymn      Now Let Us From This Table Rise      (v 1, 2)      #556**

**To Go Forth In God's Name      Commissioning and Benediction**

Go in the strength of the Spirit, to greet all you meet with understanding and friendship. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Postlude                      Amen**