

## PENTECOST SUNDAY June 4<sup>th</sup> 2017

There's A Spirit in the Air

**A Reflection by Peggy Jensen**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful:  
and kindle in us the fire of your love

Prayer: Send your Holy Spirit, O God, for the birthing and rebirthing of our faith. Send your Holy Spirit, O God, so that we may hear and speak and live in new ways. Send your Holy Spirit, O God, so that we may feel your presence in the air around us and within us. Open our minds and hearts to your word for us today. Amen

I love Pentecost Sunday and this celebration of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus promised his followers, an advocate, the Holy Spirit would empower them to do God's work. Today we remember and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit empowering us too. How do you imagine the spirit, what images come to mind? A wind of change, like flames of fire, blowing the cob webs away, descending doves symbolic of the Spirit.

None of these seem to capture the phenomenal power of the Holy Spirit. I do like the wind image. The wind can blow away the clouds of a stormy day into a bright sunny one. Picture the sunbeams breaking through the clouds radiating light! The Holy Spirit can blow through our lives and take the storms and grey clouds of our lives and blow them away! Our days and lives can change with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has been active in the midst of this faith community in many ways. You are more together in the Spirit, not two separate bodies, but one body for Christ. The Transition Team has been completing their evaluation of the team's work and the congregation's progress. Looking back on all the things we have been doing here over the past 20 months, it's amazing what has been accomplished. We took a good look at all the evaluations you completed and all the comments. You have really contributed to this process and there is more work to be done. Your responses show you are interested in making this community even better and stronger. I hope you have seen the work of the Spirit. The new name is one example, taking a second look and listening for some inspiration and guidance will lead you to the right name for this faith community. I try hard to push the river but the river knows its way without my help. Sometimes we need to let things flow their own way, let the Spirit work and be amazed at the result, we know we can trust the Spirit to guide us in the right direction.

The scriptures are always there to guide us too, and remind us of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The gospel reading from John was short but important. John wrote that Jesus cried out :  
“ *Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let the one who believes in me drink..*” *John 7: 37-39*

Tom Long comments on this passage “ what Jesus says is actually quite radical. Jesus promises that as we come to him with our thirst, we ourselves will become rivers of life. *Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water John 7 :38b*”

When thirsty people come to Jesus he does not merely hand them a spiritual beverage, momentary relief for a thirst; he gives them instead the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, believers participate in the unceasing life of God, and the water of abundant life flows and flows through them.”

**You become a river of living water, imagine that image of the Spirit in you!**

The reading from Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth is one of my favourites. It reminds us too about the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, yours and mine! The power of the Holy Spirit enables us to do Christ’s work now. Paul calls these gifts of the spirit. 1 Corinthians: 4-7

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

What is your spiritual gift? Wisdom, healing, prophecy, understanding? Each of you has a gift activated by the Spirit and given for the benefit of all. Do you have a gift of patience or a gift for leadership? Perhaps you have a gift for singing, or you have a gift for praying. Some of you do have a gift for hospitality and making good coffee. Do you have a gift for teaching?. This community is blessed because you are willing to share your spiritual gift here with each other.

*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. “*

You have become one body for Christ! Yes many members, many backgrounds, many different faith experiences but together you have become one spirit filled living body for Christ. There is a Spirit at work here and it has been a blessing to experience it. As you continue the work of this church, remember that you are always empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ in this community.

Our next hymn, written by Brian Wren, is *There’s a Spirit in the Air* a very appropriate hymn for today:

“There’s a spirit in the air, calling people everywhere:

Praise the love that Christ revealed, living working in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways,

God in Christ has come to stay, live tomorrow’s life today. “ VU # 582