

**Osler Mennonite Church**  
**Sunday Worship Service**  
**May 31, 2020**

*Pentecost*

Worship leader: Terri Lynn & Thomas Friesen

Accompaniment: Matthew Pederberg

Song leaders: Vine & Table Household

Sermon: Nora Pederberg

Children's Time: Matthew Pederberg

Scripture Reading: Christopher Bespflug

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship:**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
The wind of God, the breath of Life.  
**Come, Holy Spirit,**  
Our Advocate, our Counselor.  
**Come, Holy Spirit,**  
Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.  
**Come, Holy Spirit,**  
Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**  
May we feel God breathing through our worship.  
May we receive the Holy Spirit in this place. **Amen.**

**Invocation:**

Holy God,  
you spoke the world into being.  
Pour your Spirit to the ends of the earth, that your children may return from exile  
as citizens of your commonwealth,  
and our divisions may be healed  
by your word of love and righteousness.  
Amen.

**Hymn STJ #49 Rain Down**

# Rain down

Refrain *f* F A7/E Dm F7/C B $\flat$

Rain down, rain down, rain down your

F/A G9 C C7 F A7/E Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down, rain

F7/C B $\flat$  C C7 B $\flat$ /F F Fine

down, rain down your love, God of life.

*mf* F A7/E Dm F7/C

1 Faith - ful and true is the word of our God.  
 2 We who re - vere and find hope in our God  
 3 God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth;

*mp*

1-3 Ooh,

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PRAYING

B $\flat$  F/A G9 C C7

All of God's works are so wor - thy of trust.  
 live in the kind - ness and joy of God's wing.  
 you are the wa - ter of life that we thirst.

ooh,

F A7/E Dm F7/C

God's mer - cy falls on the just and the right;  
 God will pro - tect us from dark - ness and death;  
 Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,

ah,

B $\flat$  C7 F C7 D.C.

full of God's love is the earth.  
 God will not leave us to starve.  
 all of our hope lies in you.

*mf*

1 Full of God's love is the earth.  
 2 God will not leave us to starve.  
 3 All of our hope lies in you.

*mf*

D.C.

## Scripture Reading – Acts 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

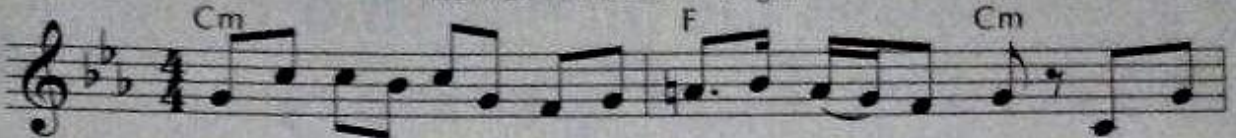
<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, <sup>6</sup> and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages begin spoken. <sup>7</sup> They were amazed and astonished: “Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! <sup>8</sup> How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? <sup>9</sup> WE are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome – <sup>11</sup> all Jews, or converts to Judaism – Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!”

## Hymn – STJ #61 How can we be Silent


WITNESSING

# 61 How can we be silent

HOW CAN WE BE SILENT Irregular



1 How can we be si-lent when we know our God is near, bring-ing  
2 How can we be si-lent when our God has con-quer-ed death, stretch-ing  
3 How can we be si-lent as we turn our eyes a-way and ig-  
4 How can we be si-lent, not give praise with all our hearts, for Christ  
5 How can we be si-lent when our souls are filled with awe at the



1 light to those in dark-ness, to the worth-less, end-less worth?  
2 out his arms to suf-fer so that we might have new life?  
3 nore the poor and bro-ken who lie bleed-ing in the street?  
4 Je-sus is our Sav-ior and com-pas-sion is our king?  
5 beau-ty of cre-a-tion and the mer-cy of our Lord?

Cm F Cm/Eb Ab G7sus G7 Cm F Cm

1 How can we be si-lent when we are the voice of Christ, speak-ing  
 2 How can we be si-lent when we know that Je - sus rose, and will  
 3 How can we be si-lent when we're called to heal and serve in the  
 4 How can we be si-lent when God gave us life to be vi - brant  
 5 How can we be si-lent when we yearn to sing new songs? In our

1 jus - tice to the na-tions, breath-ing love to all the earth?  
 2 come a - gain in glo - ry, end-ing suf - fer - ing and strife?  
 3 im - age of Lord Je - sus, who has stooped to wash our feet?  
 4 in - stru-ments of wor-ship, made to laugh and dance and sing?  
 5 hearts a fire is burn-ing and it will not be ig-nored!

Refrain\*  
 1 None can stop the Spir-it burn-ing now in - side us. We will shape the  
 2 fu - ture. We will not be si - lent!

3 fu - ture. We will not be si - lent!

## Children's Time with Matt Pederberg

### Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

<sup>1</sup> “Then again, the kindom of heaven could be likened to ten attendants who took their lamps and went to meet the bridal party. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were wise; five of them were foolish. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish ones took their lamps, they didn’t take any oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise ones took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. <sup>5</sup> The bridal party was delayed, so they all fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> “At midnight there was a cry: ‘Here comes the bridal party! Let’s get out to meet them!’ <sup>7</sup> Then all the attendants rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there won’t be enough for us; run to the dealers and get some more for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup> “While the foolish ones went to buy more oil, the bridal party arrived; and those who were ready went to the marriage feast with them, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> When the foolish attendants returned, they pleaded to be let in, <sup>12</sup> The doorkeeper replied, ‘The truth is, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “So stay awake, for you don’t know the day or the hour.”

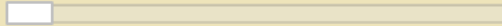
## Offering Prayer/Offertory – Fire of Love by Tom Wuest

### Fire of Love

from Unless The Seed Falls by Tom Wuest



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Fire of Love  
Acts 2

Fire of Love we wait on you  
to kindle our hearts, kindle our hearts  
Fire of Love we wait on you

to kindle our hearts we pray  
Holy Spirit fan the flame

from Unless The Seed Falls, released January 1, 2006

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### Sharing of Joys & Concerns/Prayers of the People

Empowering God,

you gave the church

the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit.

Look upon your church today and hear our petitions.

Grant that, indwelt and directed by your Spirit,

we may confess Christ as Lord

and combine our diverse gifts with a singular passion

to continue his mission in this world

until we join in your eternal praise. Amen.

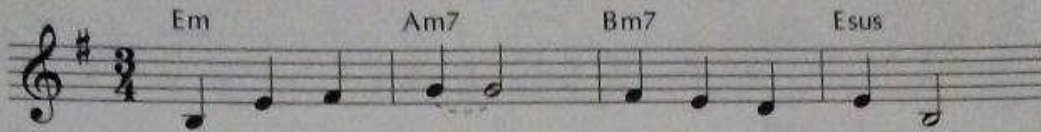
**Poem: “Pentecost” by Malcom Guite**

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

**Hymn – STJ #54 Longing for Light**

# Longing for light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 98. 96 with refrain



1 Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness.  
 2 Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled.  
 3 Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry.  
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less.  
 5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple,



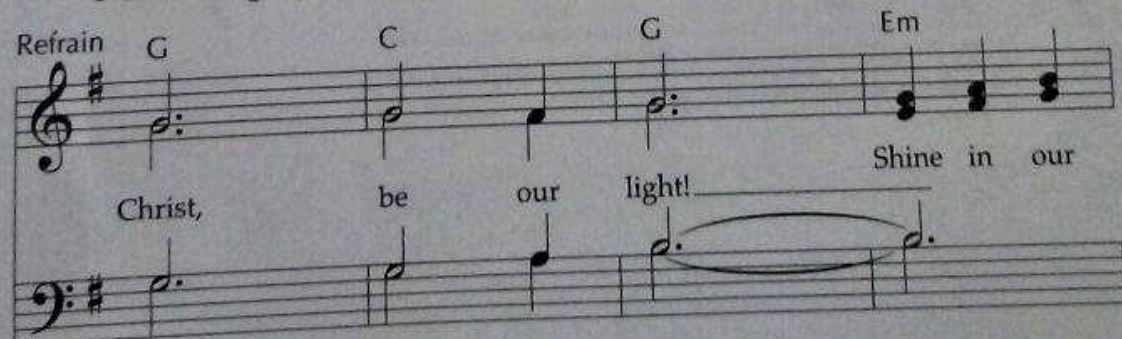
1 Long-ing for truth, — we turn to you.  
 2 Long-ing for hope, — man - y de - spair.  
 3 Long-ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.  
 4 Long-ing for warmth, — man - y are cold.  
 5 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long,



1 Make us your own, — your ho - ly peo - ple,  
 2 Your word a - lone, — has pow'r to save us.  
 3 Make us your bread, — bro - ken for oth - ers,  
 4 Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,  
 5 Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



1 light for the world to see.  
 2 Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 3 shared un - til all are fed.  
 4 walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 5 mak - ing your king - dom come.





PRAYING

Bm Em Am7 D

hearts. Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark Shine through the dark - ness.

G Dsus D Em Em7/D C

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church

Am7 D G Am7/G 1-4 G 5 G

gath-ered to - day.

## Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

<sup>4</sup> There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> These is a variety of ministries, but we serve the same One. <sup>6</sup> These is a variety of outcomes, but the same God is working in all of them. <sup>7</sup> To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

<sup>8</sup> To one, the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another, the word of knowledge through the same Spirit. <sup>9</sup> Through the Spirit, one person receives faith; through the same Spirit, another is given the gift of healing; <sup>10</sup> and still another, miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another, power to distinguished one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues; another, that of interpreting tongues. <sup>11</sup> But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts and distributes them as she wills.

<sup>12</sup> The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts – many though they are – comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews and Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.

### Scripture Response:

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us

**People:** Thanks be to God!

## Sermon: Pentecost by Nora Pederberg

Hello Everybody,

Pentecost is one of my favorite celebrations in the church calendar year. Traditionally it is known as the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, it is also called the ‘birthday’ of the church which I think is an underused title. The account we have of the event of the Holy Spirit coming is extremely short, it takes place in three verses in Acts “<sup>2</sup> Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.” The story tellers seem to casually drop this world altering miracle (the coming of the Spirit), simply using this event to frame the context and moving on with the narrative. It isn’t even the focus of the chapter. The focus of the chapter is on the impact the Spirit’s presence has on the community, on the new normal that is now taking place.

The symbol of the Spirit’s fiery presence shows the nature of God and God’s people as inclusive and inviting, and it begins with the work of the disciples, and spreads out as this unifying force present in the world. The tongues of flame are an indicator that now is the time to think about God in fresh and inspired ways. In a culture of individualism, this passage can be read over with a misunderstanding that each person receives their little piece of the Spirit. This misreading is accentuated when layered with a common understanding of our 1 Corinthians passage from today. But this leaves out the best part of both of these stories.

Paul is addressing Corinth at a time when the differences in the community have been causing division and schisms in the church. His letter is written to affirm the manifest expression of God within a community, and refusing to see them as status indicators or measures of faith. The Spirit is a gift given to the community to enrich the community; it is a presence amongst us that weaves the church together, and is active in whatever is helpful and contributes to the common good. The list of gifts rattled off in vs. 8-10 is by no means a definitive list, it is born out of Paul looking around and naming the goodness that he witnesses in that church. The way that God is present in their relationships and how this is what forms the church.

The community in our Acts story is also facing division, after the life/death/resurrection of Jesus. An emerging understanding of God has disrupting an entire ecosystem of beliefs. And into this world the Spirit gifts us with unifying presence that doesn't eliminate difference, but that allows for communication across difference. Communication that enables the church to continue to live out a multifaceted witness of what it means to follow God. This is the birthing of the church.

In taking this day as a birthday celebration, we remember that this is not in fact a unique event from a long time ago. Just as birthday's not only commemorate the birth, but the being created in the birth. The powerful and effective nature of God's ongoing presence remains active among us now. This is why the event of the 'birth' of the Holy Spirit contained in a simple three verses; the focus is on the reaction of the community. In verse 9 of our Acts passage, as the crowd names their identity and calls out their particularity, the language of the Spirit is communicated within the markings of human identity. It is the language of specific human groups, spoken in their unique idioms. God works in collaboration with real people – people filled with the spirit to work on God's behalf. It is to this list that we add our own names declaring that “we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God.” We see the Spirit weaving through our community uniting us in a time of confusion and division.

Once we place ourselves in this crowd it is easy to begin listing with Paul to the activity of the Spirit. To some, the Spirit gifts the power of sewing as people make masks, to another the gift of tending and growing as people provide food for members of our community. To one, the gift of baking as a young adult deliveries pies around Osler, to another the gift of worship as our recording team continues to provide services for us online. From side walk chalk messages and piano videos, to telephone calls, to sheds rebuilt, and prayers offered up, the body is one. “The same God is working in all of them. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1st Corin. 12:6-7)

In preparing for this service our household brought forward a song by Tom Wuest, which will take the position of our closing song. It is largely based off the Parable of the Wedding Attendants read in our Matthew scripture. This is a pre-Pentecost image of the in breaking of heaven – but it spoke to all of us with some important themes at this time. To see the link, it's important to note that in Jewish traditions oil is used as a symbol for good deeds, based on this scholar's note that in this parable the oil represents love and mercy. This is the sustaining fuel that allows light to be a continuous presence in the waiting.

The ten attendants represent the church, and they are divided into two groups. It is the readiness that sets the 'wise' apart from the 'foolish.' Five have brought with them oil enough for a delay and five have not. Matthew pictures preparation as the persistent commitment to discipleship, that is sustained by a form of love and mercy that does not run short, but can carry them until the arrival of peace whenever that may be.

This is not a story about constant vigilance, which is what I have often been taught, it actually opposes a frantic quest for resources, and information. There is no call for panicked anxiety about running out and stocking up on oil to last as long as we can. Because this oil is a metaphor for love, which is not a finite resource. The foolish attendants are those who have tried to budget out their love, their mercy, until just when Jesus gets there, with no excess to spare. Living a life of discipleship, rooted in love is easy for a short while. The problem arises

when things are once more delayed. The wise are those who refuse to live in a scarcity mindset, who are willing to wait out the night, however long it might take, because they have enough love to sustain them.

I want to pick out how rest is used in this passage. Both the wise and the foolish attendants go to sleep. The problem in this parable is running out of oil, not a lack of alertness. In fact, commentators note, vs 13 “So stay awake, for you don’t know the day or the hour” is more accurately translated “So be prepared, for you don’t know the day of the hour.” The wise rest, because that is necessary for making it through the night. It is the foolish that are sent on a frantic midnight scramble to try and get in a few more deeds of love and mercy – gathering more oil. The wise disciples can sleep in confidence. They can rest in their choice to live in the context of abundant love, rather than conditional love. The foolish seem to be under more of a contract assumption, agreeing to do works of love until a certain time; whereas the wise have chosen a way of life, regardless of timeline.

Now here is how this parable ties into Pentecost. Our closing song speaks through the images of the parable, attendants with oil lamps, but it begins to fill in for us the metaphor of sustaining love as the oil. It brings up the same themes found in our Corinthians passage, naming the ways that we see the Spirit present now, in our particular context. It proclaims that it is in witnessing the Spirit weaving through our lives and the community that we have in us already what sustains us through our new normal. That the Holy Spirit is a gift permanent to our existence, regardless of our circumstances. Just like the community of Acts, of Corinth, of Jesus’ disciples, we are living in a time of division. May we join with them in witnessing the nourishing presence of the Holy Spirit, poured out on this community as we commit to our journey of love.

**Song of Response: Burn this as a Light by Tom Wuest**

