



May 19, 2021



Pastor's Parable

Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. Read Acts 2:1-21 before then to refresh your memory! It's the Birthday of the church... which is true in the sense the first Christians swelled from 120 to over 3000 in one day! (Talk about explosive growth!). Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit! Not true since the Spirit of God was actually present at creation when in the second verse of the Bible it says, "2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." But Pentecost was the coronation of God's Presence within/among us not in the bodily form of Jesus, but in the Spirit form of comfort (much like a blanket gives comfort on a chilly evening).

It is sad that Pentecost happens on one day, barely giving us an opportunity to dance around and explore all that Pentecost means (and does not mean). Advent lasts 4 weeks to anticipate the coming birth of the Christ child. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates 7 weeks later on Resurrection Sunday and gives us plenty of time to prepare our hearts for the pain of Good Friday and the exhilaration of Easter. Not so with Pentecost.

When we celebrate Pentecost in-sanctuary we encourage everyone present to "Wear something red." Since the liturgical colour is red, I will of course be wearing my red stole. This is to bring emphasis to the fire metaphor emphasized in the Acts story, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them."

On Sunday there will be no Pentecost greeting cards mailed, no Pentecost gifts exchanged, and no Pentecost trees decorating our homes. On Sunday there will be CONSPIRACY. That's right. Conspiracy. Pentecost is a story about conspiracy, and you are invited to participate. Everyone loves a good conspiracy, do they not? The conspiracy in Sunday's Pentecost narrative may rival the conspiracies surrounding the death of Princess Diana and John F. Kennedy and the first moon walk. Certainly, the conspiracy we uncover on Sunday will certainly hold more relevance for our lives than any of the aforementioned. Join us for Pentecost and even though you will be worshipping from home, why not wear something red?

With Pentecost Blessings
Pastor Mitch

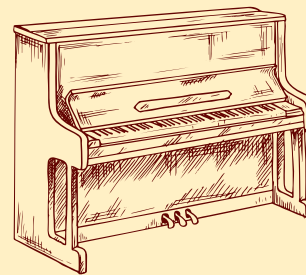
Did you know: Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning "fiftieth". It refers to the Jewish festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after First Fruits (feast of weeks).



A Pentecost Prayer

Breath of Life, on this Pentecost Sunday, we ask that You breathe on us once again. Make our consciences tender to Your touch. We hunger for the life-changing power that Your Holy Spirit brings. May our lives exemplify the fruit of Your Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May we use the gifts of the Spirit that You have distributed to bless the church and build Your Kingdom on earth. Amen.

A Favourite Hymn



Be Still, My Soul: part of the faith legacy of multiple Protestant women starting in the 17th century!

Be Still, My Soul was suggested to us by Dawn Goodwin who finds the third verse, especially, to be a "perfect antidote to grief". Dawn has sent the words of this hymn to those at the end stages of cancer and she continues to play it on her 1920s Heintzman Upright Grand Piano. The piano comes from her grandmother and currently her late Father's urn sits on the piano. Dawn explains that the family has not yet commended his ashes to her father's requested final resting place- a compost heap! She says that she hopes that even from Heaven, he enjoys the hymn when she plays.

"Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side" was written by Kathrina von Schlegel. Little is known about this woman except that she was born in October of 1697 and may have come from a Protestant Nunnery or perhaps was related to ducal court at Cöthen. "Stille, mein Wille, dein Jesus hilft siegen" is the only one of her hymns that was translated into the English hymnody.

The translation was done by another woman, Jane Borthwick (b. 1813, Edinburgh). Along with her sister (Sarah) she translated and edited the book "Hymns from the Land of Luther" which was published in 1854.

Note on the tune: The hymn is set to the tune Finlandia which was originally composed by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius in 1899 to support that cause against Russian oppression. The tune was first used in a hymnal in Scotland in 1927. The composer is known for being influenced by Finnish mythology and geography.

[Click here](#) for the hymn

Contact Christine or the office if you would like your own favourite hymn featured!



Responding to Covid-19 in India

India is currently in the midst of a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases, threatening its healthcare system and leaving already vulnerable families in crisis. You can make a donation to support PWS&D's response to the India COVID crisis.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Responding to Violence in Gaza

The Presbyterian Church in Canada condemns the violence and calls for peace. The PCC has written to the Canadian government requesting that it pressure the Government of Israel to live up to its international treaty obligations.

[A prayer and more information can be found here.](#)

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Acts 2:1-21
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Romans 8:22-27
- John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



This week's worship reader is Patricia S.