



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
Pentecost Sunday
May 23, 2021
Reverend Michael Fleming

Celebrant: The parishes of the Diocese of Ottawa sit on the unceded territory of the Algonquin people.
All: **May we live together in harmony and peace.**

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
All: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May his grace and peace be with you.
All: **May he fill our hearts with joy. Alleluia!**

Opening Prayer for The Feast of Pentecost

Celebrant: Lord of the harvest, you gave your disciples the mandate to be your witnesses around the world and empowered them with your Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to accomplish this task. Today, we ask that you help us to refocus our attention as we face a task unfinished. You have blessed us with the power and the gifts of your Spirit. Help us to use these well for ministry and witness. Amen (from Connectusfund.org)

Celebrant: Almighty God,
All: **to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest
All: **and peace to his people on earth.**
**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal, keep us in the unity of the Spirit,

that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

The First Reading is from the book of Ezekiel, Chapter 37, Verses 1 to 14

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104: 25-35

O Lord, how manifold are your works! in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, creatures both small and great.

There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

You hide your face, and they are terrified; you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please him; I will rejoice in the Lord.

The Second Reading is from the book of Acts, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 21

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. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"

Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St. John. 15: 26-27; 16: 4-15)

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ**

The Homily

I remember we were waiting to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. This was to be one of the many highlights of our time in the holy city – to be present where all the moments of the time between Good Friday and Easter morning occurred, at least according to the traditions associated with Helen, Emperor Constantine’s mother. There we were, standing on the roof of the church as we waited our turn to enter and pass Golgotha on our way into the Passion of our Lord Jesus.

We heard many languages wrapping themselves around each other as we stood by the wall – English and French and German and Italian and Serbian and Russian and Arabic and Yiddish and Spanish and others we could not identify – all flowing into each other, blending into the commonality of our shared faith.

I heard them before I saw them – young soldiers marching up the stairs at the end of the courtyard with the rhythm of cobbled boots echoing across the small cupolas and the great dome of the church. I was startled to see them, to be honest – not that they were soldiers, but that they were fully kitted out – body armour and semi-automatics across their chests as they lounged against the walls, declaring in their own way whose land this was and who held the power in this city. The more I looked at them, the angrier I got and mentioned to John that I wanted to go up to one them and ask, as politely as my trigger anger allowed, what they were doing there and why the guns. Hearing this, John took my arm and said, “Let’s go for some ice cream”, leading me away and down the stairs so I would not cause a disturbance. We wandered through the Jewish Quarter in search of refreshment when I saw a sign which said in English, French, Hebrew and Arabic “The house of John Mark, site of the Last Supper.” I was to discover a hidden gem that would re-direct my anger into joy.

We decided to forego the Israeli version of Baskin-Robbins and followed the signs into the courtyard of the house, through a door and down a curving stairway until we entered a very large and empty room. In the centre of the space was a large stone altar simply vested with white cloth and palm branches. “Here”, the plaque on the wall said, “Jesus and his disciples ate together on the night of Passover before his arrest” or some such information. It took a while to process how we got to an “upper room” by going down a flight of stairs – the city of Jesus’ time had been built over several times between 30 CE and our present and therefore going down today to go up yesterday made sense.

As I stood and thought about what might have happened in this place, remembering that there are at least three places in the city which claim to be the sacred space of eucharist and foot washing and resurrection, I also thought about another event that came some fifty days after Jesus appeared before his fellowship in this room with the greeting, “Peace be with you.” That was, of course, the moment we honour today, the Feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the birthing of what was to become the one holy catholic and apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.

Returning to our lodgings outside the Damascus gate, inspired by this unexpected discovery, I wrote these words:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...
she was formless and void with a deep darkness across her face,
like a child waiting...waiting...waiting to be born;
and the Spirit of God, Ruach-breath, was hovering,
moving, probing, seeking, finding, caressing...
and God said,
“Let it be ”
and it was.*

*In the new beginning, God gathered them in a place of darkness
a tomb of fears and broken memories
and the Spirit of God, Ruach-breath was hovering,
moving, probing, seeking, finding, caressing
waiting
for the Fire and Word.
Then God said, “Let it be”
and it was!
Spirit – rain, voice of prophets and martyrs...*

*flash of sun, flesh of Son,
bursting, cascading, dripping, searing, refining, defining,
enfolding, caressing, empowering, challenging,
birthing,,,,,sending.
Sound of the wadi, touch of the lake,
smell of the garden, embrace of the city -
send us out on wings of silver and teal to give our all
for the One who gave His All.*

*“Receive my power...be my witnesses”, the Voice said.
Close your eyes,
make your hands an open flower...
I have something for you...open them NOW!”
and I beheld an empty glass,
cradled like a newborn nestled between my roughened fingers.
“Is this all there is? I was expecting more.”
“Child” the Voice whispered,
“this is all I have but it is more than you can ever ask for or imagine.
In this glass is my Life, in this cup is my Love;
in this vessel is my All, freely given forever...
for I AM the Great Sea, the Rushing Stream,
the Meandering Brook, the Gentle Rain, the Morning Dew;
the Tear of Joy, the Tear of Pain.*

*In my water, dip this cup and bear it to another -
let them wash and be made free; let them drink and be made whole;
let them splash and be made children again
so they may laugh and dance and sing and weave
to the rhythms of My Heart,
in my Father’s Joy.
Go now and give your all
so I may fill you again and again
from the endless River of my Life.
Go now, Pentecost wind and flame -
be My witnesses
not with words
but with Love.
GO!”*

The Apostle’s Creed

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
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 Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Great God, you wrap us round with love, like a mighty, gentle Mother and you carry us like a tender Father, setting us on our feet to be your free, mature and joy-filled daughters and sons. Now, in our weakness we pray to you because we cannot come through life's troubles unscathed; and with souls and bodies stressed and strained, we cannot meet each other's needs without your Holy Spirit.

All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God's love.

Celebrant: Great God, we come to you with the resurrected Christ, who bore the weight of human flesh and blood to Calvary, for your love's sake; he pleads with you for all your suffering children.

All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God's love.

Celebrant: We join our prayers to the prayers of Jesus for those we know who are ill or troubled, and for all your suffering children who are beyond our reach of mind; we know that all are brought home to your heart in the prayers of Christ and in the silent intercessions of your Spirit, who comes from your deep heart to ours, and returns again to you with all our deepest longings...

All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God's love.

Celebrant: Heal us and help us, comfort and strengthen us, deepen our joy. Let our love reflect your mighty tenderness and serve your healing gentleness...

All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God's love.

Celebrant: Eternal God, there is such great longing in the world, people are desperate because of the suffering they endure. Earth cries out for peace, oppressed peoples cry out for justice; women, men and children weep in sorrow and pain. How can we have any hope for the world unless you are beside us? Through the mystery of pain, sorrow and human vulnerability, we dare to believe that you are on our side, that your love for us is greater than ours for you or for each other. Call us then to prophesy...

All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God's love.

Celebrant: By the lives we live, by our patience, by our compassion, by our belief in the future which you will make for us, let the Church proclaim the great things that you are doing, with hope for the nations of the world, for every person born and every living creature.

All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God's love.

Celebrant: So, living God, let praise begin here and now with us, welling up from our hearts, rising towards the skies, until praise fills the universe and joy is unconfined: as you delight in us and we delight in you, for ever and evermore.

All: Alleluia! Maranatha - come Holy Spirit come!

(Alan Gaunt from re:Worship)

We ask you to watch over all our parish family, remembering especially Zachariah, Marjorie, Cheryl, Jeanette, Roy, Emerson, Irene, and their families.

In the Worldwide Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the Area Parish of Prescott-North Glengarry: Holy Trinity, Hawkesbury; St. John's, Vankleek Hill; St. Michael and All Angels, Maxville; The Parish of Grenville/Calumet; The Chapel at St. Paul's, Fenaghvale, and for The Reverend Canon Robert Heard, Interim Priest-in-Charge

We pray for the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and their groups and members throughout the Diocese.

The Confession

Celebrant: Let us come before the Lord with humble and broken hearts and confess,

All: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Celebrant: Joy of heaven, we are so blessed that you came to dwell in each of us on Pentecost, when your Church was birthed. Surely, through your Spirit, we have died to sin and are alive to holiness. May we serve you faithfully, in praise, prayer and loving service to others, as we are changed from glory to glory. May we walk as children of the Light, in all goodness, righteousness and truth; we pray this in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And as our Lord has gifted to the community of the faithful born on this day, we pray, Our Father...

**All: who art in heaven, hallowed 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.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever,

Amen.

Additional Prayers

Celebrant: When was the last time we heard the wind of your Spirit roar through this place? When was the last time your fire lit up our worship space? When was the last time we took you at your word and met together in expectation of your Spirit filling our fellowship and our lives with your glory and power? Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost. Do we believe that this was a once an eternity experience, never to be repeated? That the Holy Spirit was poured out on your followers for a single purpose and ended his work at that instant? If so, that is maybe why the Church seems so powerless in this age, helpless when faced with the needs both physical and spiritual that we see in the world. Lord, as we meet together, even through the gifts of technology, and celebrate once again the memory of that first Pentecost, may it be for us as it was then – a moment of empowerment, as awareness of your glory in this dark world and a life changing experience for all. **Amen**
(from faithandworship.com)

All: We light a candle and enjoy the flickering light, the fragrance and the warmth it creates. But without the spark that ignites, there will be no flame. Without the wax, the source of power, the wick will not burn. Without the flame there will be no fragrance, no warmth, no light. And so with us Lord. You are the catalyst that ignites us and the fuel that sustains us. You fill us with your fragrance as you enter our lives. You empower us to carry your flame in our hearts, to be the fragrance, warmth and light of your love in this dark world. And for this we give you our thanks and praise. Amen
(adapted from faithandworship.com)

Celebrant: The Spirit came and your Church was born in wind and fire and words of power. The Spirit came, blowing fear aside, and in its place weak hearts were stronger. The Spirit came as your word foretold, with dreams and signs, visions and wonders. The Spirit came and is here today to feed the hearts of a world that hungers. You are Fire: enkindle within me your love. You are Light: enlighten my mind with knowledge of eternal things. You are the Dove: give me innocence of life. You are the gentle Breeze: disperse the storms of my passions. You are the Tongue: teach me how to bless you always the Giver of all Heavenly gifts: and You are the Cloud: shelter me under the shadow of your protection. And lastly, you are the Giver of all Heavenly gifts: animate me I beseech you with your grace; sanctify me with your love; enlighten me with your wisdom; adopt me by your goodness as your child and save me with your infinite mercy, so that I may forever bless you, praise you and love you; first during the time on earth and then in heaven for all eternity. **Amen**
(Alphonsus Liguori {1696-1878} adapted)

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: For the Spirit of peace that calms our minds and stills our lives, we give you thanks. For the Spirit of love that touches hearts and reaches out, we give you thanks. For the Spirit of joy, that lifts our souls and give us faith, we give you thanks. For the Spirit of power, that gift of grace for this your Church, we give you thanks. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit be with us and walk with us today and always.
Alleluia!