

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe  
Pentecost Sunday  
May 28, 2023  
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we gather as a Spirit-led and Spirit-fed community, we acknowledge that the places we call home and this sacred space of Holy Trinity lie on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **Let us continue to seek true reconciliation and renewal between all peoples on this good land which we have been given by the Creating One.**

Fr. Michael: Holy Spirit, we pray that you would fill our hearts with joy, love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. Renew us and kindle the fire of faith brightly within us. Make us bold witnesses to the truths of the Holy Scriptures which you inspired. Assist us in our prayers, that they may be acceptable to our heavenly Father, who with you and Jesus are one in God, one Lord now and forever.

**Amen**

(The Reverend Arnold Ruddat from re:Worship)

Fr. Michael: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void and darkness hovered over the face of the deep; and the Ruach breath, the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. Genesis 1: 1-2)

People: **The Voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the glory of God thunders, the Lord is upon the many waters.** (Psalm 29)

Fr. Michael: The wind blows where it chooses and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from nor where it goes, so it is with everyone born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)

People: **The Voice of the Lord causes the oaks and maples to whirl and strips the oaks and maples bare; and in God's Temple, all cry "Glory".** (Psalm 29)

Fr. Michael: When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created and you renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104)

People: **The earth is the Lord's and all that is therein, the world and those who live in it.** (Psalm 24)

Fr. Michael: I baptize with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (Luke 3:16)

People: **The Voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire; the Voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.** (Psalm 29)

Fr. Michael: May the Lord give strength to the people.

People: **May the Lord bless us with peace! Alleluia!** (Litany by John Paarlberg, The Reformed Church of America)

Fr. Michael: Gathered in the name of the Lord and touched by the Pentecost Spirit, we acclaim, "Glory to God in the highest

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: 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 your Spirit so that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: The wind at our backs, we entered Jerusalem, only to watch Him die on the cross. It spiralled so quickly— Trial, Torture, Crucifixion, Death. But, on the third day the Breath of God blew new life into our futures – forty days with the Risen Lord, Before He ascended, Jesus reminded us that the Spirit will come. It was on Pentecost when the wind breathed into each and every one of us. Sacred Breath, move through this place; unlock your Son within your people and breathe into us your hopes and dreams for a world filled with peace, justice and love.

All: **Amen** (Tim Graves from LiturgyBits)

Reader: A reading from the word shared with Isaiah (Isaiah 44:1-8) Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

The Word Of The Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: O God, you come to us in unexpected places – in isolation, behind closed doors; on dusty roads as we go from place to place; in video chats with friends and telephone conversations with loved ones. You come bringing us peace where there is not peace; you come bringing us hope when everything seems hopeless; you come bringing us courage when we are afraid. Come and be among us now in every place where we are. Open our eyes to see you, open our hearts to know you. In the name of the Risen Jesus we pray.

All: **Amen**

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is from Psalm 104

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.

All: **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: 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.

All: **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: 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.

All: **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: 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.

All: **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: 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. (PSALM 104:25-35)

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2: 1-21) When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: God of wind and fire, on this Pentecost Sunday we are more aware than ever of our deep need for you. It's true that we don't know how to pray, how to form on our lips the words that express the prayers that linger in our hearts. Thank you for the gifting of the Holy Spirit – the gift of the Comforter, Teacher, Inspirer, Translator of every soul's deepest needs. Guide us and bless us today. Free us from whatever safeguards we have placed around ourselves to keep our lives and our worship predictable and safe. Free us to meet you in new ways so that your Spirit may dance in our midst and inspire us to love and service in Jesus' name. All: **Amen** (written by Sue from RevGalBlogPals)

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Mark (St. Mark 1: 4-13)

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Fr. Michael: And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily - Fire in the Hold – Pentecost

They must have felt like they were in the eye of a hurricane.

Those who had been faithful to Jesus had endured much over the month and a half that had followed the awful reality of Golgotha – hearing from Mary of Magdala and John that their Beloved, the carpenter from Nazara, had been so cruelly executed at the Place of the Skull just outside the gates of the city and that He had been placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea; being told that the ritual of anointing and shrouding of the body had been delayed because of the rules around Passover and that the women intended to return to the sepulchre as early as they could when the holy time was over and complete the honouring of his human shell; sceptically listening as the three Marys came at first time with the fantastical tale of meeting the Gardener-King in the cemetery; rejoicing as He miraculously appeared

before them in the upper room where they had been hiding from the authorities both sacred and secular as they wondered what would come next; sensing a future as Jesus had poured his peace over them, flooding their lives with light and hope as they danced in the joy of his presence; that they had followed him to the garden at Gethsemane where the fateful betrayal of Judas had taken place and the dream had begun to die among the gnarled and ancient olive trees and he had given them their marching orders to go into all the world when the time was right to share what they had been gifted by God with others.

But, there had been a caveat in the garden – they were to return to their safe haven and wait – wait until God’s presence would be revealed. And thus did they shuffle up the back stairs and bolt the door behind them as they wandered and wondered in the uncertainty of it all. In the interim time, they prayed together, shared food and memories and waited, not knowing when...when...when the nightmare of their uncertainty would end.

And then, on the morning of the harvest festival called Pentecost, as their Jewish brothers and sisters gathered at the Temple bringing their first-fruits of the season for blessing, all heaven broke loose.

It began so subtly – the curtains which they had tacked over the window to secure their hidey-hole from spies on the street began to dance as a gentle breeze seemed to tease the fabric and then, before they knew it, the room hemorrhaged around them – they felt that they were in the heart of the past when that earthquake had shaken the city at the time of Jesus’ last words, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” seemed to return like an aftershock – the sleeping mats and pillows flew through the air like kites as bowls and cups fell from their shelves, shattering on the stone floor like breaking glass; the noise like a Roman garrison thundering down the streets of the Suq in search of rebels and the rabble; their serenity blown against the walls of the room as they clung to one another in abject terror and they wondered among themselves – WHAT WAS HAPPENING? WHAT DID THIS MEAN?

In the twinkling of an eye, it was over – no more roaring wind, no more blistering light, no more shaking of the foundations. Only a strange calm settled like a father’s embrace or a mother’s kiss.

Looking at one another, they knew – they knew that what Jesus had promised had come. He had promised them that God would be present to them and would give them all that they would need for the tasks ahead. The breath of God, the Ruach of Creation had visited them as if they had just been present at the re-creation of the world. They remembered how Moses had described that first creation: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the world was formless and empty, darkness was over the face of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light” and there was light. God saw that the light was good and he separated the light from the darkness.” From the darkness of chaos, the small community rose bathed in resurrection light and the Spirit-life of their own recreation. Fired by the moment, they instinctively knew that the time had been birthed for them to move into action. Throwing off the wooden beam which had bolted the door, they tumbled one after another onto the street below where a crowd had gathered as the curious and the morbid gather at an accident... Each of the disciples, both men and women, began to tell the onlookers of what had happened to them in that room.

Strangers from all over the Empire who had come to Jerusalem for the festival stood in awe as they were given the incredibly good news in words and images they could understand – that the promises the Creating One had made through time and space were now being fulfilled in their presence and the new dawn, the day of the refiner’s fire, had broken out into their collective history.

This is the day when we, the descendants of those who gathered on the street in Jerusalem, celebrate the undefinable generosity of God. We come here to Holy Trinity to share the first-fruits of our selves with one another and we nurture and encourage each other’s share of the ministry to which we all, lay and clergy alike have been called – to be ambassadors for Christ as Paul encouraged the people of Corinth; to be reconcilers of the world , sharing the good news of hope and joy with others and inviting them to be one in the Spirit with us. The Pentecost fire is here among us and we have the capability. You and I have the capacity to become what Paul encouraged his listeners to become – “ Be imitators of God therefore, as dearly beloved children, and live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself up as a sweet fragrant offering and sacrifice to God...you are no longer foreigners or strangers or aliens but fellow-citizens with all God’s people and members of God’s household built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become the holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

This is who we are, this is why we gather – to be the hearts and hands and the face of Jesus reaching into the darkness of the world with the gifts of the Spirit given to us this day: the gifts of joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit....

This is who we are – this is whose we are. Amen

Fr. Michael: Empowered by the Spirit, we affirm “ We believe in one God,

**People: 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.**

Reader: Great God, you wrap us around with your great love like a mighty, gentle mother and you carry us like a strong and tender father, setting us on our feet to be your free, mature and joyful 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.

**People: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God’s love.**

Reader: 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; and even now, as conqueror of death, he pleads for all your suffering children.

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

Reader: We pray for your Church which has been touched by the fire of the Spirit and which sees and responds to the hurting of the world with your compassion, care and tenderness. We pray especially today for Staff at Ascension House, The Parish of Lower Ottawa Valley and all who minister there, for the Anglican Church Women and their groups and members throughout our Diocese, for Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate and for those of our parish family who are in need of your healing touch Richard, Deb, Marjorie, Louise, Myra, Roy, Beth, Irene, Howard, Jeanette, Sarah, Zachariah, Cheryl.

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

Reader: We join our prayers with the prayer of Christ for those who are ill or troubled and for all your children who live beyond our knowledge; we know that all are brought home to your heart in the prayers of Jesus and in the silent intercessions of the Spirit which come from your deep heart to ours and returns to you with our deepest longings. Hear us and help us, comfort and strengthen us, deepen our joy. Let our love for others reflect your mighty tenderness and help us to serve through your healing embrace.

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

Reader: Eternal God, there is such great longing in the world; people are desperate because of the suffering they endure. Mother Earth cries out for peace; the oppressed 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 with us? Through all 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 our love for you or for each other. Call us, then, to prophesy! By the lives we live, by our compassion and our patience, by our belief in the future which you are making for us, let your 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.

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

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

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: At Pentecost, we were gifted with Spirit- power to be your Church and your faithful servants. This we cannot do alone, so now we pray,

People: **God, you have given each of us many gifts but sometimes we cannot recognize what gifts we have to share so we hide them under a basket. God, you remind us that all gifts are needed, but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced that some gifts are more special than others. God, you call us to work but sometimes we decide that membership in the body is limited by our understanding and our**

**prejudices. God, for the times when we have ignored or mislabelled your gifts, for those times when we have cut others off from your body the Church, we bring to you words of repentance and ask for your forgiveness and your grace.**

Fr. Michael: God is the gifter of MANY gifts. God is the Creator of ONE body. God is slow to anger and quick to forgive and helps us to honour and to share the gifts of all; God helps us heal the wounds and reunites the fellowship. Know that you are forgiven, accepted and enfolded in God's arms of hope and love through the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit.  
All: **Amen** (from Rev Gord Worship/Offerings)

Fr. Michael: May the peace of the Living and Loving Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

**WE SHARE THE SHALOM OF GOD WITH ONE ANOTHER**

Fr. Michael: Giver of life, receive all that we offer you this day. Let the Spirit you pour upon your Church continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected. Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my



blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.”

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Fr. Michael: Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen**

Fr. Michael: As Jesus has gifted to the Spirit Church, we pray,

People: **Our Father, 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.**

Fr. Michael: Holy God, holy and strong,

People: **Holy Immortal One have mercy on us.**

Fr. Michael: Lamb of God,

People: **You take away the sin of the world.**

Fr. Michael: Holy God, Lamb of God,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Fr. Michael: The gifts of God for the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE IN COMMUNITY

Fr. Michael: Father, may we who have received the eucharist live in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that we may show forth his gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Fr. Michael: O Holy Spirit, on that first Pentecost Sunday you came upon your people, granting them your special gifts. Through the work which you empowered them to do, souls were saved and the name of Christ was glorified. Today we pray that you would continue to enter our hearts and fill us with stronger faith in Jesus and a firmer desire to please you with godly and goodly works. Use us to accomplish your saving will for the society in which we live to the praise of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen** (Arnold Ruddat from re:Worship)

**All: Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you, deep peace of the quiet earth to you; deep peace of the shining stars to you; deep peace of the Prince of Peace to you. May the strength of God guide us this day; may God's power preserve us; may the Holy Spirit Wisdom instruct us. May the eye of God watch over us, the ear of God hear us, the Word of God give gentleness to your speech and may the hand of God defend us. May we follow the way of God this day and always and may the great Creating Spirit give birth to healings and visions that have never been seen before. And may Abba our Creator, Jesus our Liberator and the Spirit who is Holy bless us and keep us now and always.

All: **Amen.** (from the Holy Wisdom Celtic Community)

Fr. Michael: Go now and live as one body of Christ. Be at peace and care for one another. Suffer with one another and rejoice with one another. Give your attention to the Word of God. And may God delight your heart and sharpen your vision; may Christ Jesus keep you, thought and word, in his grace; and may the Holy Spirit be the fountain that sustains you all and binds you together as one in the Spirit and one in the Lord. Now, GO!

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