

Wesley United Church

*Rev. Lennox Scarlett, Minister
George Cleland, Music Director
Avery Turner, Youth Co-ordinator*

THEME: You shall be my witnesses

RUNNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE George Cleland

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

First Reader (pouring water):

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was upon the face of the deep;
and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.
(Gen. 1: 1-2)

**Congregation: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters. (Psalm 29: 3)**

Second Reader (with wind chimes):

The wind blows where it chooses,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3: 8)

**Congregation: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to
whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!" (Psalm 29:9)**

Third Reader (carrying/ pouring soil):

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)

**Congregation: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)**

Fourth Reader (with candle):

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

**Congregation: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of
fire.**

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. (Psalm 29: 7-8)**

Leader:

May the Lord give strength to the people!
May the Lord bless the people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)

OPENING HYMN: *Spirit of Gentleness* (VU 375)

PRAYER

**Holy One,
ignite within us a fiery passion for your mission in the world
today.**

**Warm us by the Spirit's dancing tongues of flame,
that we may feel your kindling blaze within,
urging us to do your greater good.**

**Make us wholly present to experience a new birth,
and awaken possibilities within us to share your love in the
world.**

**In this love and abundance, we come to celebrate your har-
vest —**

**a harvest bearing the first fruits of the Spirit within us.
Show us how to use these gifts, as we listen for your truth
in the gentle breeze of your Spirit. Amen.**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Sweet, sweet Spirit
There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,

And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound and cannot enter in,
You can make it right if you will yield,
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.

BIBLE READING: Acts 1:1-11

Doug Willford

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be

my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

HYMN: Spirit of God descend upon my heart (378 VU)

REFLECTION

CHOIR MINISTRY (O breath of life)

Prayer of Intercession

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with your love.

Open our eyes to see the presence of God all around us,
in the stillness of this sacred space,
in the busyness and noise of our city streets,
in the joys and celebrations of our lives,
in the tragedies and struggles that break our hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit, and comfort those who grieve.

Grant them the peace that only you can bring.
Stir within us a trust in life beyond death,
as we ponder the mysteries of Christ’s resurrection
and the hope we have in new and everlasting life.

Come, Holy Spirit, and bring wholeness to the sick.

Strengthen those who are weak;
heal the wounded and broken;
give rest to the weary.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
and inspire our warring world to seek peace,
to love our enemies,
to put away our weapons,
to remember the price paid for our freedom,
to care for those who have served.**

Come, Holy Spirit,
and ignite a fire in our bones,
a passion for justice that cannot be quenched
until all of your children are loved,
until no one is marginalized or oppressed,
until everyone has the opportunity to thrive,
until the world is transformed and renewed.

Come, Holy Spirit, and revive your church.

Liberate us from complacency and apathy;
inspire us with Christ's vision for a world reborn;
help us to recognize our gifts for ministry
and to use them in service of others;
transform our hearts and our minds;
fill us with love that overflows;
remind us that there is no greater calling
than to love you with all that we are
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

**Gracious God, give us a glimpse of your kingdom
emerging around us and drawing us into the new things you
are doing in the world.**

It is for your kingdom that we now pray, filled with your Spirit,
using the words Jesus taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING AND BLESSING OF OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD NEWS

HYMN — Here I am, Lord (VU 509)

BENEDICTION — *Go Now in Peace*

POSTLUDE

George Cleland

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, May 20 — Victoria Day - Church closed

Tuesday, May 21— 10 a.m. to noon — Knitting @ Church in the Library

Tuesday, May 21— 7 p.m. — Church council meet in Ogwen's Place

Wednesday, May 22 — 7 p.m. Bible Study in the parlour

Saturday, May 25 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.- Book sale at Central United Church, Port Colborne

Sunday, May 26—8:30 a.m. Congregational Breakfast in the upper hall

Saturday, June 22 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Treasures in the Trunk garage sale in the parking lot.

***TO MAKE A DONATION TO WESLEY UNITED CHURCH,
YOU ARE WELCOME TO:***

- 1) *Send an e-transfer to: wesleytreasurer@yahoo.ca*
- 2) *Mail a cheque to the church (See mailing address below)*
- 3) *Drop your cheque donation, anytime, in the outdoor mailbox or in the grey box beside the office door at the church.*
- 4) *Sign up for the pre-authorized remittance program (PAR). Envelopes are also available. Please contact Wendy Reed.*
- 5) *Donations on Sundays may be placed in the offering plates at entrance to The Sanctuary.*

We thank you for your support!