

THEY SAW WHAT
SEEMED TO BE
TONGUES
OF FIRE
THAT SEPARATED
AND CAME TO REST
ON EACH OF THEM.



ACTS 2:3, NIV

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PENTECOST

May 23, 2021

GATHERING - THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new,
Leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
In the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth,
Like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions in our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: *Acts 2:1-21*

A reading from the Book of Acts.

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?”

⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“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.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalm 104:24-34, 35b*

²⁴How manifold are your | works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number,
living things both | small and great.**

²⁶There go the ships | to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.

²⁷**All of them | look to you
to give them their food | in due season.**

²⁸You give it to them; they | gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, | they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;
and so you renew the face | of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in | all your works.**

³²You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;
I will praise my God while I | have my being.**

³⁴May these words of | mine please God.

I will rejoice | in the LORD.
^{35b}**Bless the LORD, | O my soul.**
Hal- | lelujah!

SECOND READING: *Romans 8:22-27*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: *John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said,] ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness,

because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;¹¹ about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1iV7r9o_cwEZko_Vb

(Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff's sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading “Sermons”)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day (*especially Bea, Elsie, Mary, Ardath, Doreen, Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Maria, Beryl, Robb, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Karen, Brian, and Kolby*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, fill this congregation with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints (especially Steven and Virginia). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



**ALL EVENTS
REMAIN CANCELLED**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP CANCELLATION NOTICE

**ON MAY 13, 2021
THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, DOUG FORD, ANNOUNCED AN
EXTENSION TO THE PROVINCE-WIDE DECLARATION OF
EMERGENCY AND
STAY-AT-HOME ORDER WHICH BEGAN AT 12:01 A.M. ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021.**

RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL JUNE 2, 2021.

**IT IS BISHOP MICHAEL'S STRONG COUNSEL THAT EASTERN
SYNOD CONGREGATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
CEASE ALL IN-PERSON GATHERINGS UNTIL EMERGENCY
AND STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.**

AS A RESULT,

**WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT
ALL “IN-PERSON” GATHERINGS,
INCLUDING WORSHIP, ARE**

**CANCELLED UNTIL THE EMERGENCY AND STAY-AT-HOME
ORDERS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.**

**PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE AT
www.zionstratford.com**

FOR UPDATES !!

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

UPDATE FROM THE HURON PERTH PUBLIC HEALTH

Friday, May 21, 2021: We are currently offering two Moderna-ONLY clinics for first and second dose appointments. Appointments for first doses at other HPPH community clinics are closed at this time. Subscribe to this webpage (button on the right hand side of the page) if you would like to receive an email notification when more booking spots open. Please be patient with our staff during this busy time.

Vaccination Eligibility

Ontario has a three-phased vaccination plan.

Phase 2 is now underway, dependent on regional supply of vaccine. The province has provided specific direction regarding vaccine distribution and eligibility. For more information visit COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario.

Current Eligibility List

Eligible as of May 18, 2021:

- Individuals 18 years of age and older (born 2003 or earlier)

Groups that continue to be eligible:

-Some individuals aged 16 and older continue to be eligible as part of the following groups:
Adults 16 years of age and older who cannot work from home (remotely)

-Workers in essential workplaces aged 16 and older who cannot work from home or remotely, including Group One and Group Two of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan (Note: this list is not exhaustive).

-High-risk group of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan:

-Education staff who provide direct in-person support to students with complex special needs. These staff are defined as those who support students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- who require support with activities of daily living, including health and safety measures
- are unable to wear masks for medical reasons
- have complex medical needs
- cannot be accommodated through remote learning.

-Licensed child care workers:

-Licensees, employees and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in licensed child care centres and in authorized recreation and skill building programs.

-Licensed home child care and in-home service providers, employees of a home child care agency and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in a licensed home child care setting.

Group One of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan:

-Elementary and secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)

-Workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children's aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure, restoration workers)

-Enforcement, inspection and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors/WSIB field workers)

-Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)

-Food manufacturing and distribution workers

-Agriculture and farm workers

-Funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers.

Group Two of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan:

-Individuals working in childcare: Unlicensed childcare settings

-Essential and critical retail workers (including grocery, food bank, pharmacy, Service Ontario, Service Canada, Passport Canada, wholesalers and general goods, restaurant, LCBO workers)

-Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response, construction (including infrastructure) and other essential businesses and services where facilities are

at heightened risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread

- Social workers and social services staff who provide in-person client services (including youth justice workers, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program case workers)
- Courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole workers)
- Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers (including public transit workers, truck drivers supporting essential services, marine and rail cargo and maintenance, highway maintenance)
- Electricity (including system operations, generation, transmission, distribution and storage workers)
- Communications infrastructure workers (including cellular, satellite, landline, internet, public safety radio)
- Water and wastewater management workers
- Financial services workers (bank branch staff)
- Veterinarians and veterinary teams
- Waste management workers
- Oil and petroleum workers (including petroleum refineries, crude oil and petroleum storage, transmission and distribution, retail sale of fuel)
- Natural gas and propane gas workers (including compression, storage, transmission and distribution of natural gas and propane)
- Mine workers (including those needed to ensure the continued operation of active mines)
- Uranium processing workers (those working in the refining and conversion of uranium and fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants)
- Adults 16 and older with the following Highest-Risk, High-Risk and At-Risk health conditions:

-Indigenous persons 16 years of age and older

-Residents, primary essential caregivers and staff of high-risk congregate living settings

-Residents, staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, retirement homes, and other congregate care settings for seniors, including assisted living facilities

-Adults 16 years of age and older who are chronic home care recipients

HPPH is working with local school boards and private schools regarding vaccinations for youth 12-17 years of age and their families. Families will receive information directly from their school about booking.

Please note:

Regardless of your vaccination status, it is important to continue following public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to stay home when you are sick, avoid close contact with those outside of your household, practice physical distancing, wear a mask, and wash your hands frequently. Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and get tested if symptoms develop.

For more information:

www.hpph.ca/coronavirus
www.ontario.ca/coronavirus

Follow us at www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth and www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth
Call HPPH at 1-888-221-2133

A Prayer for Pentecost

Father, as much as we want needs met
and prayers answered, we want you!
Fill us — satisfy us with Your presence.
Holy Spirit, breathe freshly upon your Word each day.
Give us an undying passion for Jesus.
Help us to tarry before you in our secret place.
Baptise us in the fire of Your holiness!
Break our hearts over what breaks Yours.
May the things that delight You, delight us.
For then ... we will have the desires of our heart.
Holy Spirit, fall! Fall on my brothers. Fall on my sisters.
Breathe on us all afresh.
Like a mighty wind, light the fire again!
Come magnify the Son in us — today, tomorrow, for always!
Show the Saviour to the world through our lives!
We want to take Your Good News in Your power
to a lost and dying world.
In Jesus' mighty, precious, holy name, Amen! So be it!

***WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE
ENJOYS A SAFE “VICTORIA DAY” LONG WEEKEND!!!***