

Key Scripture - Acts 2: 4

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.



Theme - Language and Identity

### **Aboriginal Awareness Week**

Aboriginal Awareness Week (AAW) was first introduced in Canada in 1992 and has been held annually on the four days after Victoria Day.

Envisioned originally as a vehicle for increasing public awareness, it has evolved, according to Parks Canada, "...into a government-wide celebration that gives federal public servants from across Canada the opportunity to participate in a week of interactive activities that honour the diverse cultures and traditions of the Métis, Inuit and First Nation peoples."

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
  - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Given the Stay at Home Order, the likely uncertainty afterward and the fact that the population may not be fully vaccinated by the end of the Summer or early Autumn; Council has moved that Trinity not reopen for

“In Person” Worship until September.

† Services are posted to [Facebook](#). You will find a window to Facebook Page on our [Website](#). You will also find a link to our [Bulletin Page](#). Services are rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

† **Our Annual General Meeting will be 13 June 2021, 9:30 am**

- It will not be held during a worship service
- This meeting will be held remotely, you may also join by phone
- For those who cannot join remotely or by phone, there will be limited seating in the Church Hall, for which you will need to pre-register through the Church office.

† **Stewardship Update**

- Annual Geranium Sale
  - Geraniums are sold out! Those who purchased will receive a telephone call prior to May 29, 2021 with a scheduled time to pick up their order.

**Trinity Compost Sale at REAL**

- Plan to pick up a bag or two of compost
- **Sale continues today, Sunday May 23**
  - **Curbside pickup at REAL**
  - **Best Mushroom Compost ever!**
  - **30 litre bags for \$10.00**

† **“Pitch-in” clean-up party has been cancelled due to COVID-19 uncertainties.**

† Given our present circumstance, we are pausing the Grocery Gift Card program. We do have some cards left that are still available for purchase. The Stewardship Team will decide in the Autumn if or how the program will continue.

† If you do not already track news and events in our larger Church Community, you may wish to [visit the United Church of Canada Website](#). [E-ssentials](#) is a helpful NewsLetter you may wish to consider.

† **Today is Pentecost. We will celebrate Communion.**

- Hopefully, you will have received a pre-filled cup and Communion Wafer, if not, you may certainly assemble the elements yourself.
- We normally use grape juice but we may use wine.
- We may use a variety of breads although breads without yeast reflect the type that Jesus and his Disciples would have used.
- Normally, the Bread and Cup are placed on a white cloth or napkin with another covering both until removed during the Communion Rite.
- We will eat and drink together.
- After Communion, it is common to re-cover the Cup and the Plate upon which you placed the Bread until the conclusion of the Service.

**Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

**Introit** MV 75 "Veni Sancte Spiritus"

I'll praise eternal God with all my heart,  
and I will recount your marvellous works  
and glorify your name.  
I'll praise eternal God with all my heart.  
I'll make you, my Lord, the subject of my joy.  
Alleluia!

**Call to Worship**

Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit,  
**and inspire our worship with your truth.**

Stir in our hearts, Holy Spirit,  
**and fill us with your love.**  
Strengthen us, Holy Spirit,  
**and move us to act with your power.**  
Breathe in us, Holy Spirit,  
**and receive our prayers and praise.**

### **Opening Prayer**

God of power and possibility,  
With the flame of your Spirit, you give us energy  
to move into the world in Jesus' name.  
With the breath of your Spirit, you refresh us  
to engage life in its complexity.

Your Spirit embraces us in our diversity  
and invites us to find unity in your love.  
We honour you for the gift of creation  
in all its beauty and bounty.  
We praise you for your presence with us  
in every time and place.

In this time of worship, send us the Holy Spirit once again,  
and renew us to serve you in the world,  
the world that aches for the healing and wholeness you  
offer  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Hymn** MV 6 "Holy Spirit, Come Into Our Lives" vs. 1,2,3,5

*Refrain -*

*Holy Spirit, come into our lives.*  
*Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.*

Give us a spirit of wisdom, and understanding heart.  
Give us a spirit of knowledge, and lead us to the truth.

***Refrain -***

***Holy Spirit, come into our lives.***

***Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.***

Give us a spirit of courage, and judgment that is wise.  
Give us a spirit of reverence, of wonder and of awe.

***Refrain -***

***Holy Spirit, come into our lives.***

***Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.***

Spirit of love and compassion, give hope to all the poor.  
Spirit of justice and mercy, come open every door.

***Refrain -***

***Holy Spirit, come into our lives.***

***Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.***

Spirit of light and of wisdom, O lift us from our sorrow.  
Spirit of peace and forgiveness, O help us face tomorrow.

***Refrain -***

***Holy Spirit, come into our lives.***

***Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.***

## **Time With Children**

"Steve Austin, astronaut. A man barely alive. Gentlemen, we can rebuild him. We have the technology. We have the capability to build the

world's first bionic man. Steve Austin will be that man. Better than he was before. Better, stronger, faster."

Opening Narration — The Six Million Dollar Man,

The Six Million Dollar Man was my favourite TV show in 1973.

Bill, do you remember Steve Austin?

Norma, do you remember Steve Austin?

Wendy, do you remember Steve Austin?

Bill and Wendy know what I am talking about because they can remember a show that was on 50 years ago. It might be that your Grandparents know it too but your parents do not.

If you have never seen the Six Million Dollar Man, then “Steve Austin, Astronaut. A man barely alive...” means nothing to you. Even if you know all the words. Even though you know all the individual meanings, you cannot understand what they are about if you have never been exposed to the context.

Nursery rhymes are often the first tools we use to teach little children. They are easy to remember. The words, the rhythm, the tune; but many of them mean something very different than we think. So they teach us to use words but they might not teach Language to its full potential.

When somebody says, “Now you're talking my language” they do not mean that they know your words, they mean that they understand the story, the intent and the context of your words all together to express an idea or feeling from your head or heart to theirs.

Today is Pentecost, in the Bible Story we read a story where it is said that the Believers were able to speak of God’s love in different languages. People were amazed because they understood. They were happy because

they understood the words and they understood their meaning in God's Love. There were some people who could not understand, so they said the Disciples were just drunk. I wonder if the people who could not understand were able to hear the words but were unable to believe God's Love. Language is not just words, it is meaning too.

The wonderful thing about God's Love is that it can be described in any language. There is a place for it in all our stories. There is something in the language of God's love that you understand, I understand, your Grandparents understand, your neighbours can understand. God speaks in a language we can all understand because God's love is for everybody.

### **Children's Prayer**

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of your great love that we can all understand. Help us to share that story in our words and actions so that folk around us can be astonished that they hear of your wonderful works in their own language.

Amen.

### **Prayer of Reconciliation**

God of mystery and mercy,

We confess that we have not always paid attention to the urging of your Spirit.

Too often we claim to belong to Jesus,  
but choose instead to ignore his teaching.  
You created us to love you and one another,  
but we fail to offer your love to those who differ from us.

Stir in our hearts and in our lives with your Holy Spirit.

Transform who we are,  
and direct who we shall become through Christ's redeeming  
love.

### **Assurance of Blessing**

This faithful saying, worthy of our acceptance: "In Jesus, our sins are forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another. Thanks be to God for God's steadfast love and mercy!"

**Scripture**      Ezekiel 37:1-14;  
                        Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (VU 826 Part Two);  
                        Acts 2:1-21;  
                        John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath,



prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (VU 826 Part Two);

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah!

O God, how manifold are your works!  
**With Wisdom at your side you made them all,  
the earth is full of your creatures.**

*Refrain -  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!*

There lies the great and mighty Sea,  
Teeming with living things both great and small.  
**Upon it sail the ships,**  
**And there is Leviathan, the monster you made to play in it.**

All these look to you,  
To give them their food in due season.  
**What you give them they gather up.**  
**When you open your hand,**  
**You fill them with good things.**

But when you hide your face they despair.  
When you take away their breath, they die, and return to dust.  
**But when you send out your spirit, they live again,**  
**And you renew the face of the earth.**

*Refrain -*

***Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

May your glory, O God, endure forever.

**May you rejoice, O God, in your works.**

When you look at the earth it trembles.

**When you touch the mountains they smoke.**

I will sing to God as long as I live.

**I will praise my God while I have being.**

*Refrain -*

***Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

## 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.'

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

“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. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless 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. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When 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. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**Meditation**    "Veni Creator Spiritus" (Willan)

**Reflection**    Many Tongues, One Spirit

On Facebook a small while ago I read this quip - “Basically, English is what happens when Vikings learn Latin and use it to shout at Germans.” In preparation for Pentecost, I decided to look up the actual history of English.

The history of the English language started with the arrival of Germanic tribes that invaded Britain during the 5th century; Angles, Saxons and Jutes, from Denmark and northern Germany. At that time the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders.

With the Viking invasions 1,000 - 1,500, Old English was blended with Old Norse, which gave English more than 2,000 new words like “give” and “take”, “egg”, “knife”, “husband”, “run” and “viking”.

At or about 1066 with the Norman invasion, English was influenced by French. Interestingly, I read that “By adopting and adapting French words, the English language also became more sophisticated through the inclusion of concepts and words like “liberty” and “justice”.” This speaks clearly to the influence of language not just as a means of communication but of shaping culture and values.

With the end of French rule and the influence of people like William Shakespeare, English became the language of influence and power. Of course, with the invention of the Printing Press, the language stabilized but

it continues to evolve. The rise of technology introduces new words and the influence of America in media and trade certainly are significant.

So language not only used to convey history and culture, in a real sense *language is history and culture*.

On the Day of Pentecost, when folk heard the Gospel in their own language, it should not be implied that this means simply “in their own words” but that somehow the Gospel was relevant and understood in the context of the hearer’s whole language, history and culture. When somebody says, “You are speaking my language” it is not about words, it is about meaning, emotion, culture, resonance.

*“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.*

*... in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”*

The wonder of Pentecost is not just that God’s Word is heard by many but that it “fits” across cultures. One does not have to learn a new language to hear and understand the Good News, it “fits” in your own words, history and culture.

Tragically, the Church has not always understood or remembered the lesson of Pentecost and in its Missionary efforts has found herself trampling over the richness of other peoples’ stories which both destroys others and makes the Good News inaccessible and distorted ... so much so that the Gospel itself is associated with pain and loss, rather than Grace and Life.

Today is Pentecost and This is Aboriginal Awareness Week and we are celebrating Communion.

Pentecost reminds us that the Gospel, the Good News of God's Love is available for and fits a variety of languages and ways of being; that the language of the Gospel changes so as to be comprehensible across cultures.

Aboriginal Awareness Week reminds us that we chose to ignore the power of the Gospel to "fit." Aboriginal Awareness Week reminds us that we forgot or discarded the Blessing of Pentecost, as concerted effort was expended by church and state to erase many of the languages and cultures in which this story of Love and Grace could have been proclaimed and experienced. Great harm was inflicted on both Indigenous Folk and the Gospel itself.

Communion is one of the principal ways we remember and celebrate Reconciliation.

In 2012, the United Nations held a forum on 'The Study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples'. The importance of language is summed up in the following quote:

**"Language is an essential part of, and intrinsically linked to, indigenous peoples' ways of life, culture and identities. Languages embody many indigenous values and concepts and contain indigenous peoples' histories and development. They are fundamental markers of indigenous peoples' distinctiveness and cohesiveness as peoples."**

Language is integral in affirming and maintaining wellbeing, self esteem and a strong sense of identity. Languages contain complex understandings of a person's culture and their connection with their land.

*"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.*

*... in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."*

May we be a people who seek reconciliation by first respecting and giving space to the language and culture of our Indigenous neighbours. May we faithfully seek the gift of the Spirit so that our words and deeds with respect to reconciliation form a true language of love and truth and are never left to lie as mere, incomprehensible words.

## **Communion**

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

May the Spirit of Pentecost touch you this day.

**And touch you, as well.**

May the soft, gentle breeze of love fill your hearts.

**We open them to the Spirit who would overflow from our hearts.**

May the words of Pentecost offer you new songs.

**We will sing praise and thanksgiving to our God.**

You breathe your Spirit into chaos  
even the confusion in which we are living,  
to shatter the anxiety of our hearts  
to reshape them into beauty.  
you whispered your Word into the silence,  
and rivers raced to the oceans;  
whisper your Word now  
into the silence of our isolation .

Like any loving parent, you fed creation with hope,  
as you long for us to care for others  
These moments of worry are not new,  
and so you keep sending those we call prophets.



to tell of what you are doing and will do.  
You sent Jesus to us,  
to breathe your peace upon us  
and to bring us back to you.

With those who continue to live in isolation  
yet long to share the Spirit with others,  
we will sing your praise forever and ever:

**Holy, holy, holy are you.**  
**All creation will sing until it has no more breath.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who speaks peace.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

Like your glory, may your holiness be eternal  
and may Jesus, bless us  
with words of wonder and joy.

Though we may sit alone,  
he comes to be with us in love,  
with grace and hope.

Though we remain hidden away  
he enters to take fear's power  
over us away, so the bright flames  
of the resurrection might bring us hope.

As we open our hearts to the Spirit,  
as we welcome the peace and power,  
we tell of that faith grounded in Pentecost's mystery:

**Drawing his last breath, Christ died for us;**  
**with the sudden breath of the resurrection,**

**Christ was raised;  
Christ will return, to breathe the Spirit into us forever.**

Here in this moment, with people gathered  
    wherever they are, alone or with others  
may you pour the Spirit of Pentecost  
    upon the simple gifts of the bread and the cup.

### **Fraction**

With the brokenness of the bread,  
    we pray hope might fill our souls  
        so we will might become a mighty wind  
to bring healing to our world.

### **Pouring**

Drinking from the cup of grace,  
    we pray it will flow through us  
        so we might become a fountain  
        of unending generosity  
to parched people  
    thirsting for life.

### **Sharing**

And when that day comes  
    when we no longer need  
        to shelter in place or isolate from others,  
you will gather us around the Table  
    with our sisters and brothers  
of every time, of every place,  
    breathing the Spirit upon us,  
telling us the Word of grace and hope,  
    as we sing our thanks forever and ever. Amen.

*It is now that we eat the Bread and drink the Cup with  
Thanksgiving*

**Hymn** 578 "As A Fire is Meant for Burning" (tune 442)

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
So may we be signs of oneness mid earth's peoples, many-hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

**Invitation to the Offering**

At Pentecost, God poured out gifts of the Spirit upon the church,  
to equip her to bear witness throughout the world.

We offer our gifts and our lives, so that the work will continue  
with the blessing of the Holy Spirit in this generation and beyond.

**Offering Prayer**

Spirit of grace and power, bless the gifts we offer so that they  
accomplish surprising things in Jesus' name. Bless our lives, too, so  
that our words and actions may bear witness to your love and mercy  
every day. Amen.

**Hymn** 379 "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"

O Holy Spirit, root of life,  
creator, cleanser of all things,  
anoint our wounds, awaken us  
with lustrous movement of your wings.

Eternal Vigour, saving one,  
you free us by your living word,  
becoming flesh to wear our pain,  
and all creation is restored.

O Holy Wisdom, soaring power,  
encompass us with wings unfurled,  
and carry us, encircling all,  
above, below, and through the world.

**Prayers of the People**

Wind of the Spirit,

Blow through us and your whole church on this day of Pentecost:

Blow through us and renew our faith.

Re-awaken our love for God.

Let your flames warm our hearts with trust in Jesus Christ  
and dare us to do great things in his name.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us  
and renew our faith.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us  
and give us energy to serve you as the body of Christ.

Open our eyes to recognize needs

for ministry and mission around us.  
Open our hearts to welcome newcomers  
and meet those we do not yet know.  
Open our hands to share in tasks that need doing,  
and open our lips in prayer and praise.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us  
and renew our energy to serve.  
Wind of the Spirit, blow through us  
and give us understanding  
for all those whose lives seem so different from ours

For those facing situations we've never encountered

For those with whom we've disagreed

For problems and challenges we face at home, at work,  
and in the world still struggling with the effects of the  
pandemic

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us  
and give us new understanding.  
Wind of the Spirit, blow through us  
and bring healing  
for all who face pain or illness, discouragement or  
disappointment

For all who know sorrow, sadness or grief

For those who face stress and pressure,  
especially as they recover from the impact of the pandemic

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us

and bring healing and peace.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us  
and bring us the compassion we see in Christ Jesus.

Blow through us  
and equip us to serve the world you love in his name.

Blow through us  
and refresh us as your faithful followers.

Unite us across our differences  
as together, we pray the words he taught us:

*Prayers conclude with:*

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength,  
courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;  
Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

**The Lord's Prayer**

**We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** MV 156 "Dance With the Spirit" x3

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk\* with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

\*alternatives: "move" or "sing"

**Benediction**

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones"