

SA, SL, TS and DSM United Churches

Camping Sunday – May 19th, 2024

And Pentecost Sunday

Prelude: – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - Southbuxton.ca and Talbotstreet.ca .

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: Turn and notice the faces of those we know and love—neighbours and friends, family in the Spirit— a community of kindred hearts.

People: Turn and notice all the images of God assembled here.

Eric: In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

People: Come, let us worship together.

Opening Hymn: VU 412 “This is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.

You are our God, you are our God,

we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.

This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

Opening Prayer:

O God, Creator of shining lakes and sand dunes, we worship you with gladness. You call us into community at camp; we gather around the fire singing. Help us to be calm, so that we might hear your voice on the breeze and recognize your presence within and around us. We are part of your wonderful creation. We enter the woods with thanksgiving and go into the hills and plains with praise. We celebrate your love which lasts forever. Amen.

Children's Story: Video of Kenesserie Camp

Children's Hymn: VU 577 "I've Got Peace Like a River"

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 104: 24 - 35

Our Lord, by your wisdom you made so many things; the whole earth is covered with your living creatures.

But what about the ocean so big and wide? It is alive with creatures, large and small.

And there are the ships, as well as Leviathan, the monster you created to splash in the sea.

All of these depend on you to provide them with food, and you feed each one with your own hand, until they are full.

But when you turn away, they are terrified; when you end their life, they die and rot.

You created all of them by your Spirit, and you give new life to the earth.

Our Lord, we pray that your glory will last forever and that you will be pleased with what you have done.

You look at the earth, and it trembles. You touch the mountains, and smoke goes up.

As long as I live, I will sing and praise you, the Lord God.

I hope my thoughts will please you, because you are the one who makes me glad.

With all my heart I praise you, Lord! I praise you.

Scripture: John 15: 26 – 27, 16: 4 - 15

Jesus tells the disciples, "I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me. Then you will also tell others about me, because you have been with me from the beginning. I am saying this to you now, so that when the time comes, you will remember what I have said." "I was with you at the first, and so I didn't tell you these things. But now I am going back to the Father who sent me, and none of you asks me where I am going. You are very sad from hearing all of this. But I tell you I am going to do what is best for you. This is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you. The Spirit will come and show the people of this world the truth about sin and God's justice and the judgment. The Spirit will show them that they are wrong about sin, because they didn't have faith in me. They are wrong about God's justice, because I am going to the Father, and you won't see me again. And they are wrong about the judgment, because God has already judged the ruler of this world. I have much more to say to you, but right now it would be more than you could understand. The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on his own. He will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen. The Spirit will bring glory to me by taking my message and telling it to you. Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I have said that the Spirit takes my message and tells it to you."

Message: "The Spirit at Camp"

Today, as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, we concentrate on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit today is symbolized by the elements of wind and fire. We are told that The Holy Spirit is poured out on all nations and all peoples, so that through this outpouring - all nations may be blessed and receive the good news.

The presence of the Spirit is the continuation of God's redemptive work completed in Jesus the Christ. Through our adoption in Christ, the sharing of the

Spirit and the redemption of humanity, will positively affect the whole of creation. It is clear that God cares for all of creation, not only humanity, and redemption is for all creation.

In John, Jesus shares the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has not told us everything and Jesus knows there will be times in our lives that we may need some hand holding. As we know life has changed a lot since Jesus' day, and we have all different kinds of life challenges. The Holy Spirit has the ability to be relevant in 2024 as it was in 24 AD. How might we learn about the Holy Spirit? If we are not told about the Holy Spirit, would we recognize it in our lives?

Jesus says to us today, *"I have much more to say to you, but right now it would be more than you could understand. The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth."* When we go to camp, we learn about the outdoors. We are taught how to read signs and understand the outdoors. We enjoy these new experiences. We enjoy our new friends. We might be taught how to swim, and have the chance to earn swimming badges. We sit around the campfire, singing songs, sharing stories – laughing, bonding and learning new things. A good ghost story is usually heard around the campfire. Camp is so full of new experiences.

Many times those few days at camp is the first time we have been away from home on our own. We may be full of fear and tears as we head off to camp. After a few days we don't want to go home. Camp challenges us in many other ways, including thinking for yourself and reasoning why you might do this versus that. It's a great place to learn about the Holy Spirit. It is a great place to trust in yourself and your abilities. It is a great place, yet a safe place, to step out of your comfort zone to experience life independently.

Even at camp we cannot show the campers everything. Like Jesus, we need to give them the foundation. We need to tell them about this man named Jesus who shows you how to live your life to the fullest. We need to tell them about the Holy Spirit. They need to test out the Holy Spirit and learn to rely on their spiritual gifts. When they may not be sure of what to do next, they pray a prayer and wait for the answer.

Children find prayer, singing and many of those other things we do at camp almost intuitive. In many times they find out things about themselves that they may

not have known before. They embrace their Spiritual self. They go home with wonderful memories and experiences that they will value for the rest of their lives.

How is God communicating with our children and young people? Can they really feel and understand the Holy Spirit? Do we hear the Holy Spirit speaking to them in their tongues – being language that children can understand?

Do children at camp, catch themselves doing something or saying something, that they know are not their actions or words? Do they credit The Holy Spirit? Do they go home and tell their parents and do they tell them, “It just a coincidence?” Will The Holy Spirit intervene and give wisdom to the parents? We can pray that they too may recognize The Holy Spirit with them.

Jesus shares that the Holy Spirit is coming to be with the disciples. Jesus says the Holy Spirit will share the truth and explain how we as Jesus’ disciples – Christians – will and should live as God’s children; caring and loving one another. The Holy Spirit comes and speaks into the heart in our natural, intuitive “tongue” - in a way that is accessible to all. The Holy Spirit speaks to our very heart. This is a precious indication of God’s desire for nothing to get in the way of our relationship with God. Camp does that to our children and youth. With the presence of The Holy Spirit, we (and they) are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 296 “This is God’s Wondrous World”

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
 all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
 the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.

This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
 in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:

O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: Today we celebrate the Holy Spirit at Camp. As we remember our own Camp experiences, let us offer our gifts to all of the Church's ministries. Let us give in love.

Offertory: VU 540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving"

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Offertory Prayer:

People: In celebration of our church camps and the fun times we have shared at camp, we offer our gifts. As the Holy Spirit speaks in our lives, use these gifts for the Holy Spirit to speak in the lives of our campers. May the campers be nourished and strengthened to share the good news in their communities, with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Chorus to Prayer: VU 665 "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour"

Pass me not, O gentle Saviour, hear my humble cry;
while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.
Saviour, Saviour, hear my humble cry;
while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Pastoral Prayer:

Closing Hymn: VU 289 "It Only Takes a Spark"

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;

that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

Blessing:

Eric: It only takes a spark; in fires and in the hearts of campers. May the spark of the Holy Spirit put a fire in your heart for God's wonderful creation, now and forever more.

Closing Chorus: "Go Now In Peace"

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: – Christie Coatsworth

Prayers: - Please include these people in your prayers this week.