

Friday News from South West

May 26, 2023

Pentecost

On this Sunday of Pentecost, our focus Scripture is:

Acts 2:1-21 NIV The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.



⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

For the Christian Church, Pentecost used to be an important celebration in the Christian year; for many it eclipsed even Easter, for it was seen as the completion of God's work. Even the Resurrection took on its true meaning in the context of God's Spirit arriving among the early disciples.

Over time, the significance of Pentecost has faded somewhat. Yet, it is still a powerful celebration.

In the midst of all the turmoil we face in our world today, we have to believe that God's Spirit is indeed alive and present in our midst and goes with us wherever we may go!

To describe Spirit is still one of the biggest challenges facing those who lead worship. Suffice to say, as Creator God is holy mystery, so too is Spirit – often uninvited and unseen, yet ever present in our lives.

In the central Pentecost story in Acts 2, we find a curious piece that sometimes gets overlooked: Luke, the author, speaks of how the spirit was *like* flames of fire, and *like* the howling a wind.

Perhaps it would be helpful to accept that we cannot fully comprehend the mysterious workings of God's Spirit and thus, any attempt to define it will always fall short.

The diverse gifts of God's Spirit weaves communities and creation into a wonderful quilt, beautiful and enriched by God's presence.

My prayer for this week is:

Creator God, Holy Spirit, come to us, come among us, come as the wind and cleanse us. Come as fire and burn, come as dew and refresh. Come, breathe upon us with gifts of new life, new inspiration, and fresh energy to witness to your saving love. Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit of God, and fit us for serving in your realm so that we may change the world. Amen.

In peace,
Pastor Beryl, DLM

Music Notes

There will be a concert at the **Rockburn Presbyterian church** to welcome their new organ! Our organ, built by Wolfgang Kater for SouthWest 15 years ago. The new residence is a 200 year old stone church with beautiful wood work inside, and the organ looks and sounds gorgeous.



Our own Katherine Black will be singing, as well as members of the Peace&Justice choir.

Sunday, June 4 at 4 pm

There is a freewill donation, with all proceeds going to a local food bank.

You are welcome!!

*Approximately an hour from Verdun.

From Verdun to Hollywood: Ruta Lee



Before she starred in such films as *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Witness for the Prosecution* and *Funny Face*, Ruta Lee was a child of Lithuanian immigrants growing up in wartime era Verdun. The picture at left shows her in front of the movie theatre on Wellington street in 1954, presumably at a premiere for *Seven Brides...* when she was just 19 years old. Her father, a tailor, had moved the family to Los Angeles just a few

years before. While still in high school Ruta got a job at Grauman's Chinese Theatre as a candy girl and then a box office cashier, but when her till was short one night, she was summarily fired. Years later, she would receive her very own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, directly in front of that famous theatre. Ms. Lee, born Ruta Mary Kilmonis, turns 88 on May 30th.

Images: Explore Verdun -IDS

Vintage Cars in Lachine

Notre-Dame Street in Lachine will be a block party on Sunday May 28, with activities for kids, a barbecue zone, and lots of cool old cars to look at. It's from 10:30-3:30, so why not head over after church?

Upcoming Services at Summerlea (10AM):

May 28: Pentecost

June 4: Trinity Sunday; Pride Sunday, Union Sunday; Environment Sunday

June 11: 2nd after Pentecost

June 18: 3rd after Pentecost; Father's Day, Indigenous Day of Prayer / Food Sunday

June 25: 4th after Pentecost

Summerlea United will close for the month of July.

Other Announcements:

June 3rd: Plant Sale 10am-12pm (Saturday) at Summerlea

June 3: Yard Sale at St-John-Brebeuf church in Lasalle

June 4: concert at Rockburn Presbyterian Church, Sunday June 4 at 4:00 PM to celebrate their new pipe organ, which of course is the former SouthWest United pipe organ. A choir has been formed for the occasion. Details to come.

SouthWest Prayer List

John Adnum

David Adnum

Helen Cameron

Donna Cobb & Keith Wood

May Cook

Violet L'Esperance

Phyllis Luther

Bridget McCarthy

Shirley Mitchell

Patrick O'Leary

Roberta Roberts

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

Suzanne Webster

If you would like your name added to (or removed from) the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.

Pastoral Care: for emergencies, you may contact Pastor Beryl directly on her cell phone. No calls after 9pm please: 514 942-6212.



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