



## Celtic Prayer Service

Edgecomb Community Church, UCC

*"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."*

**Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023**

WELCOME

Rev. Kate Pinkham

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Most powerful Holy Spirit, come down upon us and subdue us. From heaven, where the ordinary is made glorious, and glory seems but ordinary. Bathe us with the brilliance of Your light like dew.

OPENING RESPONSES

One: Into your presence we come. Into fellowship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Glorious Trinity. You breathed this world into being. Your creative Spirit is still visible within our everyday lives; through the changing seasons, the colors and sounds of nature, the rhythm of day and night, sunrise and sunset, tide and wind, rain and shine.

**All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.**

One: Your Spirit, present in the birth pangs of this world empowered the Prophets of old, ordinary people called to live extraordinary lives.

**All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.**

One: Your Spirit was so visible through the life of your Son, from the moment of conception to his death and glorious resurrection.

**All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.**

One: Your Spirit was the parting gift of Jesus to the world. 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth'

**All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.**

*Period of silence.*

LIGHTING THE TRINITY CANDLES (*in unison*)

**We light these candles to remind us that God is here among us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through our worship, may God's love fill our hearts, may we find courage to live like Jesus and may God's Holy Spirit give us hope so we can make a difference in the world.**

\*HYMN                    *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*                    vs. 1-3

TIME OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

**All: Holy One, you have gifted us with the power to perform miracles, to be your witnesses here and to the ends of the earth. Yet we stand so often with feelings of inadequacy, fearful of our own failings and sin. Forgive us when we try and limit your power and underestimate our own capabilities. Forgive us when we fail to open our hearts fully to the working of your Spirit, when we choose to limit your work in our lives. Empower us as you did the Prophets of old; embolden us in our witness to our family, our neighbors and all whom we meet.**

*Period of silence.*

One: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: It filled those that were empty,  
It empowered those that were weary.**

One: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: It brought together those that were divided,  
It reassured those who were afraid.**

One: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: By its power we can walk together as one,  
By its power we can find strength to share.**

One: God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: By its power we can find freedom in loving each other,  
By its power we can find life in you.**

SCRIPTURE READING

REFLECTION ON THE SPIRIT

Rev. Kate Pinkham

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

\*HYMN

*I Sing Praises*

vs. 1-3

PRAYERS OF CONCERN

Great God, you wrap us round with love, like a mighty, gentle mother, and you carry us like a strong and tender father, setting us on our feet to be your free, mature and joyful daughters and sons.

Now, in our weakness, we pray to you because we cannot come through life's troubles unscathed; and, with souls and bodies stressed and strained, we cannot meet each other's needs without your Holy Spirit.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

One: Great God, we come to you with the resurrected Christ, who bore the weight of human flesh and blood to Calvary, for your love's sake; and even now, as conqueror of death, he pleads with you for all your suffering children.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

One: We join our prayers to the prayers of Christ for those we know who are ill or troubled, and for all your suffering children who are beyond our reach of mind: we know that all are brought home to your heart in the prayers of Christ and in the silent intercessions of your Spirit, who comes from your deep heart to ours, and returns again to you with all our deepest longings.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

Heal us and help us, comfort and strengthen us, deepen our joy. Let our love reflect your might tenderness and serve you healing gentleness.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

Eternal God, there is great longing in the world. Earth cries out for peace; oppressed people cry for justice; women, men and children weep in sorrow and pain. How can we have any hope for the world, unless you are with us? Through all the mystery of pain, sorrow and human vulnerability, we dare to believe that you are on our side, that your love for us is greater than ours for you or for each other.

Call us, then, to prophesy!

By the lives we live, by our patience, by our compassion, by our belief in the future you will make for us, let your Church proclaim the great things you are doing, with hope for the nations of the world, for every person born, and every living creature.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power; Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with God's love.**

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER - *You are welcome to come forward to light a taper from the Christ candle and place it in the sand as a symbol of your prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts, debtors*)

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us: **"Our Father..."**

THE MORNING OFFERING

\*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ and Spirit one.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

**God of great wonders, we join with you in the joy of giving. You give us life and breath, you fill the world with beauty, our hands with bounty, and our hearts with the desire to give. Accept these gifts, and ourselves in your service. Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF RELEASE, FAREWELL, AND BLESSING  
FOR PASTOR KATE PINKHAM

(*See insert*)

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING HYMN *God Is Love Let Heaven Adore Him*

**We remember in our prayers:** For the family of Suzanne Boudin, Tiffany Beaucage Ruth Bryant, Ellen Keefe, Gary Spurgat, Beverly Parsons, Rose Young, Poppy Truchon, Gail Boudin, Virginia Chubbuck, Amy Poole, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, George & Pat Greene, Jeff & Jeanne Sewall, Dottie, a family member of the Boudin family and friend, Ginny Kroitzch, Carol & Eric Johnsen, the Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

**Acknowledgements:** Hymns played by Pianists Terry Heller and Pianist Richard Irwin Music from his website: <https://play.hymnswithoutwords.com/>. Except where otherwise noted, music in today's bulletin that is not in the public domain is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-739201. All rights reserved.

**Edgecomb Community Church, UCC**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

15 Cross Point Road, P.O. Box 113, Edgecomb, ME 04556

[www.edgecombchurch.org](http://www.edgecombchurch.org) FB/EdgecombCongochurch Phone: 207.882.4060