

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The Worship team of the Regional Council Meeting has put together this worship service for use by congregations on May 28th. Many ministers will have been attending the regional meeting in Port Elgin this weekend, and so we offer this service so that Lay Leaders might lead worship. Alternatively if your minister is in the pulpit, this service still might be used to make their burden a little lighter on this day.

This service uses as a key resource a book entitled *Dream, a Tale of Wonder, Wisdom & Wishes* written by Susan Bosak. This is the same theme used for worship in Port Elgin during our meeting.

Permission has been granted for the use of the book, including projection of images. If you do use the book, please use this as your credit: *Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom & Wishes* by Susan V. Bosak, www.legacyproject.org

A Youtube video of the book being read is available if you wish to preview it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4p7BNdajk0>

Images for projection are available from The Legacy Project website

<https://legacyproject.org/books/dreamslides.html>

A hardcopy of the book is available through

Indigo/Chapters <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/home/search/?keywords=Susan%20Bosak%2C%20Dream#internal=1>

or

Amazon.ca

https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=Dream+by+susan+bosak&crid=JIAG2EHKTL85&srefix=dream+by+susan+bosak%2Caps%2C93&ref=nb_sb_noss

There is an opportunity to be interactive during this service. You may wish to prepare some stars in various colours and provide pens/pencils for people to use.

It is also Pentecost Sunday, so we have tried to include some Pentecost themes as well.

This service works well as an intergenerational service.

Please feel free to change or adapt this service to suit your congregation.

Blessings as you dream your dreams and welcome the spirit into worship.

The WOW Spring Meeting Worship Team

Worship For Sunday, May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday
Provided by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Before the service begins, pass out paper stars and pens/pencils.

* Indicates the congregation should stand as they are able.

* **Opening Hymn:** Come All You People (Uyai mose) MV #2
or On Pentecost They Gathered VU #195
or Dance with the Spirit MV #156

Acknowledgement of the Land *please insert your own land acknowledgement here.*

Lighting the Christ Candle *(from Godly Play)*

Once there was someone who said such amazing things,
and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him.
But they didn't know who he was.
So one day they simply had to ask him.
And he said "I am the Light"
And so we light our Christ Candle,
a light that connects us to God and to one another
A reminder of the light we carry within us
as we seek to be all that we can be as followers of Jesus.

* **Call to Worship (responsively)**

Come to this time of worship with your stories, your dreams and your songs
Come to share in the Spirit.

We come, as faithful men, women and children have come for many generations.

Let all your dreams and visions, your hopes and concerns
come together in a symphony of sound.

**We join together in one chorus of celebration and joy
for what God has done and continues to do among us.**

Let us Worship God.

Prayer of Approach (in unison)

Holy Spirit, move and swirl and dance among us.

**Remind us that you are always present;
encouraging and inspiring us.**

Insert yourself into our hopes and dreams.

Enthuse us with possibilities for what might be.

Stir us during our time together so that when we reenter our daily lives

we will walk humbly, embrace love and do justice in our unjust and fragmented world.

Amen

Announcements – Work of the People

* **Children's Hymn:** I Love to tell the Story VU #343 or

My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV #138

Children's Time & Lord's Prayer

I want everybody to close their eyes and just breath in and out... nice deep breaths. (3 or 4 times)

Now open your eyes and do the same thing. Can you see your breath? Can you see each other's breath? Sometimes if it's cold outside we can see our breath, but not normally.

Now close your eyes again Put your hand in front of your face

And blow....

What do you feel?

So even when we can't see something, sometimes we can feel it, so we know it's there.

God is like that. We can't see God. We can't touch God. But God is still there. Sometimes we say God is with us through God's Spirit. Do you know what we call God's Spirit? The Holy Spirit.

And the Holy Spirit touches us even when we don't feel it. In fact the Holy Spirit is in each one of us. Some people say our very breathing in and out is the Holy Spirit.

There are two very important stories in the Bible about the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came from heaven as a dove and landed on Jesus shoulder. When you were baptized the minister would have said you are baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The other story is the one of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That's the day the Holy Spirit came on the disciples, and they found the power and courage to go out and preach the gospel. They spoke many different languages, and everyone understood one another. The Holy Spirit is an amazing thing. Our Bible story today talks about the Holy Spirit and about dreams and visions inspired by the Holy Spirit. We're also going to read a book in a few minutes that's all about dreams.

Now let's pray the Prayer Jesus taught us.

Lord's Prayer.

Offering

In every breath we take there is the Spirit

In every word we speak, there is the Spirit

In very gift we give, there is the Spirit

May the Spirit be present in abundance as we offer our gifts.

Offertory Hymn: We Give You But Your Own VU #542 or 543 or

Grateful MV #182

Dedication

Oh God, these gifts are a token of our thanksgiving. We offer them with joy, and pray that your spirit will blow through them and us, as we use these gifts to become living gifts of hope and grace to others. Amen

Scripture Reading

Acts 2: 1-21 (*if you don't wish to read all of this you can end at vs 17*)

Reflection: Read the Book Dream by Susan Bosak

(if you have the ability to, project the pictures, see above for resource to get pictures. If you can't project, then be sure to turn the book so people can see the pictures as you read)

After reading the book, invite people to close their eyes for a few moments and think about the dreams they might have had during various times in their lives. (perhaps have some quiet music playing during this time – about 3 minutes)

Now invite them to open their eyes. Re-read the last page of the book.

“Look up, up, up into those billion billion sparkling stars.

What dreams do you find?

Little dreams, big dreams, each a hope looking for a life to make it real – a life like yours.

Be a dreamer.

With everything around you.

With everything before you and after you,

With everything that is you...

Dream a dream... your very own dream.”

Now encourage people to take their stars. Write on the star a dream they might have today. It could be a dream for themselves, for their family, or for their church or community. (again, give about 3 minutes for them to do this)

Once they have written their dreams, invite those who are comfortable doing so to share their dreams either with their neighbour, or to come forward and share with the congregation. You might even want to invite conversation about the dreams for the congregation. Or perhaps have people write two dreams – one personal and one for the Community of Faith. Once done sharing, fold the paper stars up and have someone collect them.

Once collected offer Prayers of the people. (*adapt as needed*)

Prayers of the People

Creator God, we gather as a humble people, just a small part of this wonderful world in which live. We pray for your spirit to be with us on this Pentecost Sunday. We pray for our church leaders who have met this weekend, and we pray for those who have been ordained and admitted to this United Church of ours. Instill in them your spirit as they seek to serve you and their congregations.

We pray for all the people and places in our world that face challenges. We think of those in Western Canada as fire continues to rage, destroying vast areas of land, and threatening the people who live there. We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, and Syria and all the places where every day is a fight for survival.

We pray for people in our own country who live without the necessities of life. In a country so vast and so wealthy, help us to share so all may have enough.

Creator of dreams, we bring to you our dreams. We have many dreams. Dreams and hopes for the future. Walk with us as we embark upon our dreams. Guide us and lift us up as we yearn to be all that you would have us be. Help us to fulfil your dreams for us. Be with those whose dreams seem distant. Offer them hope and give them comfort.

We offer to you the dreams we have named today, along with the dreams that remain in our hearts. Receive them, and bless them, as you bless us.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Affirmation of Faith (*written for the Spring 2023 Regional meeting*)

We believe in God, whose heart is joined with our hearts,
whose dreams are lived out in our dreams,
who invites us into relationship with one another and all creation,
loving and caring for our neighbour as we are loved and cared for by God.

We believe in God, who sent Jesus, crucified and risen,
to teach us lessons of hope and love,
whose own dreams were of a kin-dom of unity and love.

We believe in God, who sends the Spirit,
A Spirit that moves through us as we live in relationship with creation and with one another,
a Spirit that enlivens our dreams, and abides in us as we live out those dreams.

Indeed, we believe in God, whose heart is joined with our hearts.

Praise be to God. Amen

* **Closing Hymn:** Spirit of Gentleness VU #375 or

We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection VU #586

* **Benediction** (*from Dream by Susan Bosak*)

“Be a dreamer.

With everything around you.

With everything before you and after you,

With everything that is you...

Dream a dream... your very own dream.”

And may all your dreams come true. Amen

* **Choral Blessing:** Go Now in Peace

¹ Whole People of God Jan 3/16

² Gathering, ACE 2015/16 Nora Vedr3ess, Calvary U.C. Prince Albert Sask.