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"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."

Acts 2:2-4

As I sit to write this, puffy clouds are skittering across the blue sky, the wind is whipping around the tree branches – scattering pinecones across my deck – slamming the door that I left open to air out the house on this beautiful June morning. The season of Pentecost has arrived in all its gust and bravado!

I love the image of the Holy Spirit as a rushing wind – uncontrollable, blowing where it will – dancing across the fields, skipping over the waves – disheveling our hair and our lives in constant swirling movement – indiscriminate in what is uplifted, twirled around and rearranged. Sometimes the Holy Spirit might be a gentle breeze, but other times, it demands to be noticed.

How do you respond to the wind? We can either struggle against and fight it, or work with it – surrendering to its whim and its power. A favourite anonymous quote tells us: 'While we can't control the winds, we can adjust our sails.'

We have all had to adjust our sails in recent months. Re-jig our routines, modify our plans, adapt our expectations. Completely change our tactics for everyday living. No sense in being stubborn where this pandemic is concerned. Like the trees outside my window, bending to the vagaries of the prevailing winds ensures survival. Brittle, inflexible branches are snapped off.

What might the Holy Spirit be blowing into our lives and our world these days? There seems to be a restless yearning emerging around the globe – as people awaken and speak out, rise up and reach out. The spirit of truth and justice have been unleashed in a fury, passive complacency has been overturned – the rambunctious Spirit is untethered – and we could be in for a wild ride!

How can we trust in this gusting Spirit – yielding to its unknown direction?

How can we lean into its power and let it carry us along?

The Holy Spirit does not single out individuals in our Pentecost story – **all** are touched with the Spirit – **all** are transformed.

Today too, the Spirit touches and transforms. **All of us.**

How are you responding to the disruptive and yet always life-giving spirit, as it bursts into **your** life?

Be well, stay well,

Elise

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*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*