

Sunday, June 7, 2026  
Pentecost 2

Centring Music

"Méditation" by Jules Massenet  
performed by Dr. Wayne Johnson

Call to Worship

*Loosely based on Psalm 33.1-12 by Rev. Darryl Macdonald*

Awake my body, awake my soul!

**Rejoice in the song of your Anam cara!**

**Sing a new song to your Soul Friend.**

**God has made the heavens and the earth**

**and filled them with steadfast love and righteousness.**

**Awake my sacred being.**

Candle Lighting

**Song**

Will You Come And Follow Me **VU567**

A Time of Centring

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God  
and prepare yourself for an encounter with the Holy.

Begin with your breath.

Feel the air pass your nostrils and glide down your throat to fill your lungs.

Drop your diaphragm and let your belly and back expand.

Notice the rhythm of your breathing, and the spaces between your breath.

The air you breathe is sacred for it is the breath of God.

Your body is sacred for it manifests the Holy One in substance and form.

Be aware of your body and how you are sitting.

Let your hands fall open and your feet feel grounded.

Ask of God what you need at this moment and give space for the response.

Take some time to reflect on your relationship with God, the world, your sacred centre.

Honour your connection to God's creation.

Offer something of yourself.

Be open to receiving God's gift to you this day.

Now, return to your body.

Imagine there is a light that softly glows from your heart, through your limbs and head,  
and radiates out into the world, connecting with people, animals, fish and birds,  
with water, soil and even rock, and give thanks to God for the experience of life.

**Song**

Come, Let Us To The God Of Love **VU653**

## Scripture

Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26 New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.  
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9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. 23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. 26 And the report of this spread through all of that district.

## Another Voice

*by John O'Donohue from Anam Cara*

Once the soul awakens, the search begins and you can never go back. From then on, you are inflamed with a special longing that will never again let you linger in the lowlands of complacency and partial fulfillment. The eternal makes you urgent. You are loath to let compromise or the threat of danger hold you back from striving toward the summit of fulfillment. When this spiritual path opens, you can bring an incredible generosity to the world and to the lives of others. Sometimes, it is easy to be generous outward, to give and give and give and yet remain ungenerous to yourself. You lose the balance of your soul if you do not learn to take care of yourself. You need to be generous to yourself in order to receive the love that surrounds you. You can suffer from a desperate hunger to be loved. You can search long years in lonely places, far outside yourself. Yet the whole time, this love is but a few inches away from you. It is at the edge of your soul, but you have been blind to its presence. Through some hurt, a door has slammed shut within the heart, and you are powerless to unlock it and receive the love. We must remain attentive in order to be able to receive. Boris Pasternak said, "When a great moment knocks on the door of your life, it is often no louder than the beating of your heart, and it is very easy to miss it."

## Song

Love Is The Touch **MV89**

Reflection

Love Intrusion

### Invitation To The Table & The Story

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. As they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took bread. Having given thanks, he broke it and said,

This is my body, broken for you.

Do this to remember me.

After supper, he did the same thing with the cup:

This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you.

Each time you drink this cup, remember me.

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, our Anam cara, our Soul Friend, can make us whole.

### Offering Time

Music Reflection

"Wondrous Love" arr. L. Shackley  
*performed by Dr. Wayne Johnson*

### Offering Song

I Come With Joy **VU477**

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Anam cara is here.

**Our Soul Friend is within us and among us.**

Open your hearts to ther Anam cara.

**Our hearts are open to our Soul Friend.**

Give thanks for our Anam cara.

**We are thankful for our Soul Friend.**

Blessed are you, God our lover and Anam cara. Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love, you made this wonderful world for us to enjoy.

You showed our ancestors how to care for one another.

You gave us Jesus to be our Aman cara, our Soul Friend, and to bring us closer to you.

He died on a cross but you brought him to life, to live with us forever.

You send us your Spirit and bring us to this table so that we can share your love.

For all your goodness we give you thanks; and together we give you praise.

**Holy, holy, Anam cara,**

**Source of life and love!**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

**Hosanna through the ages!**

**Blest is the One who brings awareness of your presence!**

Sacred Soul Friend, we offer you praise and thanksgiving over this bread and wine, because in Jesus Christ, you have joined yourself forever to us, uniting heaven and earth.

Now, therefore, we gratefully remember: Jesus' birth into our humanity, compassion for our suffering, intimacy with our frailty, rebuke of our ego, bearing of the cross with its death, and rising from the tomb with resurrection life.

The Lord's Prayer

VU960

Breaking of Bread and Pouring of Wine

On the night before he died, Jesus who took bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,

“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,

“This is the new covenant; remember me.”

Our Soul Friend, who was held by God's love,

**is held for us in this bread.**

Our Soul Friend, who was cradled in God's presence,

**is cradled in this cup.**

So take this bread and this wine.

**In sharing them God comes to us so that we may come to God.**

*Bread and wine are distributed. We will eat and drink together.*

The gifts of Soul Friend for the people of the Soul Friend.

Prayer After Communion

Anam cara,

your gift of love transforms and enlivens us.

Your presence within and around us moves us to celebrate you in all aspects of life.

Your justice, peace, and compassion are the foundation of our faith.

**You send us forth in faith, hope and love.**

Song

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy **VU271**

Blessing

*based on a blessing by John O'Donohue*

Be blessed with good friends.

Learn to be a good friend to yourself.

Journey to that place in your soul

where there is great love, warmth, feeling, and forgiveness.

May this change you.

May it transfigure that which is negative, distant, or cold in you.

May you be brought in to the real passion, kinship, and affinity of belonging.

Treasure your friends.

Be good to them and may you be there for them;  
may they bring you all the blessings, challenges, truth, and light  
that you need for your journey.  
May you never be isolated,  
but always in the gentle nest of belonging with your Anam cara.

Music to Send Us On Our Way "What a Wonderful World" by George Weiss and Bob Thiele arr. J. May  
*performed by Dr. Wayne Johnson*