



Grace upon Grace

FIRE

Dear Friends,

Fire is the prominent image of Pentecost. Unfortunately, fire has been in the news for the past several weeks as we witness the devastating news from Fort McMurray. It is heartbreaking to see such destruction; even entire sub-divisions are leveled to the ground. We are not as accustomed to natural disasters as our neighbours to the South. It is difficult for us to imagine the utter destruction and immensity of this particular event. Yet, we see it in the lives of individual families as their stories emerge. We understand fully that this is just one of the ways that the media chooses to break down the event in their attempt to make it more personal and relatable. Fire is also the symbol of the first Pentecost when Jesus poured out his spirit. Because of its intensity and those closest to it are filled with awe. The power it produces is undeniable. In the life of the Christian Church the celebration of Pentecost is meant to convey these similar dynamics. There is a significant difference; while the wildfires of Fort McMurray were bent on destruction. The fire of God's Holy Spirit is bent on renewal, power and new life. God desires his people to have all that they need to go forth, to not only take the message of Christ but to be the good news. There has been an outpouring of generous support all across our country for the people of Fort McMurray. This fire has united us. It has ignited acts of compassion, charity and goodwill that make us proud to be Canadians. These dimensions of our character are not new, but drawn out in response to the circumstances we face. Let us continue to support the West with our prayers and financial resources, knowing that they have a long road ahead. Let us celebrate God's Spirit in our lives which enable us to be people of compassion and generosity.

In the love of our Lord Jesus, *Wayne+*