

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

As we gather in the name of Jesus we acknowledge with gratitude and respect the Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ – on whose traditional and unceded territory we gather.

➤ *Rise up, rise up*

130 MV (repeat)

Call to Worship

Jesus proclaimed to them the Reign of God, and they asked:

“What do you mean by that?”

Jesus freed them from illness of body and mind, and they asked:

“What’s going on here?”

Jesus challenged them to follow his Way, and they asked:

“Where will that take us?”

These are some of our questions too. Guide us, O God, on our quest. Help us to understand and respond as we join in prayer, worshipping you...

† Prayer

O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises and singing of your glorious hope to everyone, we may become one living body – your living presence on the earth.

Help us to use our time of worship to be thankful for the blessings we experience – to confess where we fall short in our care of and respect for one another – to draw upon your wisdom and strength as we seek to speak out as Spirit-filled followers of Jesus Christ.

Touch, teach and heal us O God. Make us newly aware of your love and forgiveness as we pray together.... ***Our Father, who art in heaven – hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come – thy will be done – on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen***

Words of Hope

Hear the good news: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone away. A new life has begun. Thanks be to God that we can make a new start, forgiven and set free.

➤ *There’s a spirit in the air (verses 1, 3, 6)*

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Game *Rock, paper, scissors*

† Prayer for Understanding

Source of Wisdom, still our minds in these moments of listening, so that we may be fully present and attuned to your life-giving Word this day. Amen

Scripture

Mark 1: 21-28 (*The Message*)

Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, *“What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you’re up to! You’re the Holy One of God, and you’ve come to destroy us!”*

Jesus shut him up: *“Quiet! Get out of him!”* The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

Everyone there was spellbound, buzzing with curiosity. *“What’s going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and tells them to get lost!”* News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Story

“Say Something” by Peter H. Reynolds

➤ *Don’t be afraid*

Message

In the reading from Mark’s gospel Jesus is noted as not being like the scribes – as having authority – not only a prophet – a teacher – a “spokesperson”.

Jesus’ authority comes from within – comes from the Holy Spirit. As we recognize the new teaching of Jesus, we come to see that Jesus is exactly who the troubled man in Capernaum said he was – the Holy One of God. With this understanding of who Jesus is we come to understand who we as followers of Jesus are called to become.

Each one of us is granted authority to speak in God's name, we are called by Jesus to go out – to preach – to teach – to heal; to care for others and to show God's love in all that we are. Jesus even gives the authority to forgive the sins of others in the name of God, saying to Peter, what you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and what you loose on earth, will be loosed in heaven... Jesus gives to us a tremendous power, a remarkable authority.

Jesus has the authority and the power needed to make a difference. He has the authority and power of God – a power that can change any situation, heal any person. Prophetic authority.

Jesus offers this power to us – offers his new teaching, with authority, to those who believe and follow him. He calls us to do the work of God in this world – to use the authority of God's love to heal, to teach, to bring justice, and to grant mercy.

Think about signs of modern-day prophecy – posters, memes, or songs / MLK or Greta or Malala...

“Prophecy” – speaking up for what is right (not telling fortunes).

Although we may tend to see a prophet as a biblical character repeating messages from God, quite frequently, those messages sound very familiar: *take care of the vulnerable, seek peace, love justice, care for the earth and for each other.*

The prophet speaks for all those in creation whose voices are being drowned out.

How do you speak out in our world? With your voice – your art – your music – your poetry – your courage – or simply with your presence?

Sharing ideas received...

➤ *When Israel was in Egypt's land*

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† Prayer (adapted from PCC resources)

Holy God, of heaven and earth, in you we live and move and have our being. Your energy fills the cosmos and enlivens every cell of our bodies. You are around us, within us and beyond us.

Thank you for the simple pleasures of each day, and for the strength to meet the challenges that arise. Replenish us with the energy of your Spirit so that we know you are there for us and with us.

In these strange times of isolation and distancing, we are grateful for prayer in its many forms: in word and in silence – in music and movement – in the Spirit's breath within us. Draw close to us when we are feeling frustration or fear and renew our spirits to continue serving you as best we can.

Hear us now as we pray for the earth, this precious and fragile home to all living things: for declining species of plant and animal life – for the earth’s climate – for the oceans and the rainforests.

(A silence is kept.)

Teach us how to better care for your earth and live more respectfully in your creation.

Hear us as we pray for the economy: for those whose decisions shape it – for employers and business owners – for workers and those who cannot find work – for those who have lost their jobs and those whose businesses are at risk – for all who seek economic justice, fairness and the common good – and for those who struggle to discern what this means in a complex world.

(A silence is kept.)

Teach us how to care for our neighbours in these days of economic uncertainty.

We pray for our own circle of family and friends. Heal, bless, lead and encourage them. Grant to each one the particular gifts needed this day and lead them to a healthy, productive future. We pray for neighbours and strangers in our community who face struggles and sorrows as the pandemic stretches on. Remind us that we belong to each other and to you and help us respond to one another with compassion and kindness.

Now in silence, we bring to you the cares and hopes on our minds today.

(A silence is kept.)

Thank you for hearing the prayers of every heart. **Amen**

➤ *To show by touch and word*

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† Offering and Prayer

Jesus’ ministry was often filled with challenge and choice. We face challenge and choice as we follow him in a new day and age. The invitation to give an offering week by week is a challenge. The gifts we choose to offer continue his ministry of healing and hope. Take the challenge and give as God has blessed you.

Lord Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, asking that you bless them so that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine in your name. Bless us, too, so that our lives speak of our choice to follow you, and our ministries offer the healing and hope you have offered us. Amen

Blessing

Experience God’s abundant love – be filled with jubilant praise for the Creator. Share your blessings – know the great joy of being generous. Have confidence to speak out against injustice in Jesus name. And may the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the nurturing community of the Holy Spirit embrace us all.

➤ *We will go out with joy*

539 (PCUSA)