

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement

As we gather for worship in Jesus' name, we remember that we do so on the traditional and unceded territory of the ɫəkʷəŋən and the W̱SÁNEĆ. We acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. As we pray, reflect, and celebrate in this place, we do so as guests lamenting injustice and asking God to lead us along paths of reconciliation – inspiring new relationships of respect and solidarity.

□ *O let the power fall on me*

Call to Worship (from Psalm 33)

Rejoice in the Lord O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

**Praise the Lord with the lyre. Sing to the Lord a new song.**

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of God's mouth.

**For the Lord spoke, and it came to be; the Lord commanded, and it stood firm.**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people chosen as God's heritage.

**Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in the Lord,**

**because we trust in God.**

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

□ *To Abraham and Sarah*

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† Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

You, O God, are overflowing with love – infinite in kindness – incomparable in glory. You are the source of all good things. In you, all things work together for good. Your presence breaks into our lives in many ways, and you touch us with wonder. In this time of worship, we offer you thanks with our prayers – praise with our hearts – and honor with our lives.

God of all our journeys, you lead us day by day. Sometimes the going is smooth and we follow gladly. But sometimes the going gets tough. We face obstacles and choices. We're unsure which way to turn. Forgive us when we hesitate – give us the courage to take a step into your future. God in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

† Prayer for Understanding

**Forgive us, O God, for failing to see your grace active in our world. Help us to hear your call – and in hearing, to follow. Enable us to live with openness to, and trust in, the restoration you bring. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen**

Scripture    **Genesis 12: 1-9 [OT 10]**

Now the Lord said to Abram, *"Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, *"To your offspring I will give this land."* So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

**Romans 4: 13-25        [NT 155]**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null, and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, *"I have made you the father of many nations"*)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become *"the father of many nations,"* according to what was said, *"So numerous shall your descendants be."* He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Therefore, his faith *"was reckoned to him as righteousness."* Now the words, *"it was reckoned to him,"* were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26** [NT 9]

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, *"Follow me."* And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.

When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, *"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

But when he heard this, he said, *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."*

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, *"My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."* And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, *"If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."*

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, *"Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."* And instantly the woman was made well.

When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, *"Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping."* And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

□ *Like a mighty river flowing*

741 (alternate tune?)

Offering and Prayer

God offers us a future in Christ Jesus, sometimes through comfort and sometimes through challenge. We present our gifts to God in gratitude for God's faithfulness to us in every situation.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* 306

**Creating, Sustaining and Healing God, here are our gifts. We place them before you, asking that you enable them to become life-giving offerings that will reach out to fulfill the greatest need. Use this money and use us according to your Holy will. Amen**

† Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (with sung prayer refrain)

God of our past and our future, we come before you with grateful hearts, trusting you to walk with us through all the times of our lives. You create a future for us – calling each of us to use our individual abilities and opportunities to make a difference in the world you love. Thank you that we all have a place and a purpose in creation. Hear us now as we pray for the world in its deep and diverse needs...

□ *Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all* 492

We pray today for those who face danger and despair...

We remember those living with hunger and all those caught up in unrest or violence beyond their control...

We pray for all those working to relieve suffering and bring justice and peace...

□ *Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all* 492

We pray for all who are facing fear or frustration – wrestling with sorrow or discouragement in any area of their lives...

For those who live with illness or pain – coping with chronic conditions or disability....

For those who know the grief and change of bereavement...

And we pray for all working to bring healing and comfort as well as agencies which offer support and care to those who suffer...

□ *Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all* 492

We pray for all who feel helpless or hopeless...

For those around us facing unemployment, struggling to make ends meet...

For those caught up in the pain of misunderstanding or broken relationships...

And for those working through situations of conflict at home or at work...

We pray for all who offer guidance and support in the midst of such difficulties and for those who have skills in reconciliation or mediation...

□ *Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all*

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God of healing and hope, guide our congregation to engage each day with faithfulness. Where we need correction, show us a new way – where we need love and encouragement, inspire us. Unite us as we travel into the future you are creating for us as followers of Jesus. We pray with confidence in Jesus' name... ***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***

□ *I heard the voice of Jesus say*

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### Blessing

In faith, we dare to venture forth... In faith, we dare to claim God's promises... In faith, we hear the voice of Jesus and respond... May the grace of the risen Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit embrace us all.

□ *Jump with joy*

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