

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the land where we gather for worship belongs to God, as does all of creation. We also know we are here as guests on the traditional and unceded territory of the ləkʷəŋən and the WSÁNEĆ. May we continue asking God to forgive us for injustices we are directly or indirectly part of and may we be led along paths of reconciliation and solidarity.

□ *Come, Holy Spirit (Gaither)*

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 105: 1-6, 43)

O give thanks and call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises – tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name – let the hearts of those who seek the Creator rejoice.

Seek God's strength and presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done – the miracles, and judgments God has uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, God's servant – children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

God brought the people out with joy and with singing. Praise God as we join our hearts, minds, and voices in worship!

□ *Let us build a house*

† Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

God of all creation, you open the world around us and fill it with creatures of your love and purpose. We pray that our work will honour your justice and mercy – that our relationships speak of your love and compassion. We praise you, Divine Presence, not just in these moments of worship, but in all our waking and our working. May we live your praise and promise in Jesus' name.

Holy One, you are the giver of all good gifts, yet our generosity is often limited. We complain about our lot. We compare ourselves to others and see what they have that we lack. We share some of what we have, but we worry about running short. Forgive us our worries about tomorrow and give us generous hearts that trust in you day by day.

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. God's generous love reaches out to embrace us all. In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. Thanks be to God!

A Word to Ponder... **fairness**

□ *Love us into fullness*

† Prayer for Understanding

God of wisdom, as we gather to hear your Word this day, calm our spirits and still our minds so that we can receive your message with clarity and respond in faithfulness. Amen

Scripture **Exodus 16: 2-15** **OT 62**

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?"

And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'"

And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Philippians 1: 21-30 NT 196

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20: 1-16 OT 21

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.'

He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

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

Message – Christopher Sanford Beck

□ *Amazing Grace (verses 1-4)*

670

Offering and Prayer

Thankful for the good gifts God gives us in Christ and in creation, let us present the fruit of our living for the work of God in the church and the world.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

306

Faithful God, bless the gifts we bring today. Use them and us to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in the world so that your goodness will flourish, and your name be honoured for Christ's sake. Amen

† Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

God of mystery and wonder, we look around at the beauty of the world and sense that you have given each precious thing its place and a way of sustaining itself. Thank you for your attention to the details of creation.

Yet we also see an aching world and sense that many precious things are under threat. Bless the work of faithful people everywhere who care for the climate and environment. Show us how we can protect what is at risk for the health of your whole creation.

God our Maker... **make us a sharing people.**

God of energy and life, we look around at the peoples of this world and see your imagination and dignity in every variety of face and culture. Thank you for the gifts you plant at the heart of humanity.

Yet we also see the aching of the hungry and hurting – we hear the groans of oppressed and denied – the cries of all who fear tomorrow. Bless the ministries of our church across our country and around the world that bring healing and hope to lives at risk.

God our Maker... **make us a sharing people.**

God of promise and possibility, we look around at people colliding with each other – we hear the grumbling of nations locked in old rivalries and new grievances. We watch the jousting of leaders impressed more by polls than effective policies. We worry about the future of our communities and our children. Thank you for the advocacy of justice and peace in which we can participate.

God our Maker... **make us a sharing people.**

God of faithfulness and surprise, we look at ourselves and sometimes doubt we can make a difference or have an impact. Challenge us to recognise the kinds of power we do have: love and compassion – courage and commitment – laughter and friendship – generosity and mercy. In all of these gifts we know your power at work within us and among us. Call us to keep serving together, trusting you can do more than we can ask or imagine through each one of us.

God our Maker... **make us a sharing people.**

Blessed by the grace of Jesus Christ 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***

□ ***There is a balm in Gilead***

747

Blessing

Freely you have received, freely give. Never forget that God has blessed you. Pray for the grace to treat others as God has treated you. Now let us go into this week, blessed by the liberating grace of God – filled with the selfless love of Jesus Christ – inspired by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit which embraces us all. Amen

□ ***Jump with joy***

406