

Welcome / Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the land where we gather for worship belongs to God, as does all of creation. We also acknowledge that the Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ – lived here before settlers of European descent claimed ownership of it and displaced those for whom this land was home. As we pursue our goals to dismantle racism and attend to growing diversity, we lament this injustice in our history and commit ourselves to just and respectful relationships within our congregation and our neighbourhood.

□ ***He is Lord (repeat)***

252

Call to Worship

Like spring breaking through winter's power,

God's resurrecting power breaks into our lives in surprising ways.

Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit,

God's Word upholds the church in strength.

Let us worship God who makes all things new.

We will praise God who brings growth and renewal to all life.

□ ***Now the Green Blade Rises***

256

Gathering Prayer / the Lord's Prayer (this version by Jim Cotter) / Words of Hope

Holy God, Creator of all things; you are our hope and the source of all wisdom. You hold the heavens in your hand, all the stars rejoice in your glory. You come in the sunrise and the song of the morn and bless the splendour of the noonday.

Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, you are the vine, and we are the branches. Your love is our strength. Your energy is our joy. Eternal God, we praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

Holy Spirit, you nourish our faith so that we can bear fruit in many different ways. We gather to offer our worship and praise you as Holy God, Loving Son and Holy Spirit, ever Three and ever One.

Holy God, despite our love for you and our desire to be your people, we still know our need for forgiveness. You made us with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a

will to serve you. But we fail to love you and one another fully. Forgive us for ignoring to love and worship you, for ignoring the needs of others, and not following your ways. Forgive us for seeking praise from others yet failing to encourage them in their endeavours. Forgive who we have been, O God, and root our lives more deeply in your love.

Together we pray as Jesus taught us,
**Eternal Spirit: Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen**

We are the precious people of Christ! We carry with us the promises of God: that we are loved. And that nothing can separate us from God's love for us. For the proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Brothers and sisters in Christ; believe the good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven people. Thanks be to God.

□ *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

438

Prayer for Understanding

God of Word and Wisdom, the Risen Christ opened the minds of his friends to understand the Scriptures. Send us your Holy Spirit to open our minds to receive your truth and love which can fill our hearts and change our lives. Amen

Scripture

Psalm 22: 25-31 [responsive/displayed]

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations.

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship, or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?

He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him; this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn, declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

1 John 4: 7-21 [NT 241]

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen,

cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15: 1-8 [NT 109]

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

Message

- *Lord Jesus, You Shall be my Song as I Journey* 665

Offering and Prayer

We see growth in the gardens around us and remember that the seed of God's Word bears fruit in each life it touches. The gifts we offer today help to sow the seeds of God's Word throughout the world God loves. In compassion, let us share what we have that others may grow in God's Spirit. Let us bring our offerings to God.

- *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* 306

God our Maker, you have filled the world with so much. We offer our gifts to you, knowing they are part of your abundance. Bless them and use them to bring hope and new life in Christ's name to a world that so badly needs these gifts. Amen

Pastoral Prayers

- *Will You Come and Follow Me?* 634

Blessing

When you feel unsettled or unsure, may you know that you are held under the shadow of God's wing. When a sense of worry, or monotony colours your day, may the peace of God's renewing Spirit flood and refresh your soul. When the world around you feels dark and foreboding, may the warmth of the light of Christ bring new life, to refresh, and shine in and around you. And may your own spirit be stirred up, and emboldened with love and courage that you may serve the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit wherever you are sent. Amen

□ ***Go now in peace, never be afraid***