

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 neighborhood.

Celebrations / Joys & Concerns

***God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.
God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on
you.***

□ ***He is Lord (repeat)***

252

Call to Worship

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done marvellous things.

Let us make known the Lord's victory,
for God's steadfast love covers the whole earth.

Let us sing joyful praises,
and join all creation to worship God's holy name.

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

Be with us this morning, O God, in our thinking, our feeling, and our being. Touch us where we need to feel your presence and encourage us where we need your inspiration.

Merciful God, we know that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as you have called us to do. We repent and are sorry for all our sins. Forgive us we pray – strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Understanding

O God, we give thanks that in Christ we are friends. Strengthen us by your Holy Word to carry on in the footsteps of Jesus with Christ-like love for one another. We pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Scripture **Acts 10: 44-48** [NT 130]

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

1 John 5: 1-6 [NT 241]

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.

Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15: 9-17 [NT 109]

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

Message

□ *Amigos de Cristo/Friends of the Lord* **476**

Offering and Prayer

God has blessed our lives with relationships – joy inspiring and challenging. In response to God's generosity, we are invited to share from the abundance we have been given.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* **306**

Creator God, we offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these offerings that they may bring wholeness and life abundant to all your people. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Vine and Branches¹ (an affirmation of faith)

The affirmation of faith we will say today uses imagery from John's gospel. It reminds us of our history and our future...

We believe in God, the Root of all living, Creator of all things.

We live in Christ Jesus, God's Son, who loved all people and who makes us one in his love. He suffered and died and was raised to new life. In his death and resurrection, we are also raised to life that is transformed. Christ is our Vine, and we are his branches; and without him we cannot live.

We live by the Holy Spirit, flowing through us so that we may bear fruit for God, the fruit of love. In the Spirit we are one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

¹ Methodist – General Board of Discipleship

Invitation to the Lord's Table

We have heard about God, who loved confusion into order and gave each creature a divine image, making the world.

We have heard about Jesus, a poor man whose banquet feeds the world, a healer whose wounds give life, a teacher whose wisdom traces love's order in the world, finding the divine in each of us.

We have heard how Jesus died, and how, for those who loved him, he rose again.

We have heard about the Holy Spirit, who breaks the bonds of race and class, of gender and creed, to show God's love for everyone.

And we have heard that love makes all things new. We come to this table asking for the bread of such blessings.

These miracles begin with simple human gestures, bits of bread in a basket, tongues that talk, souls that yearn. And so we bring bread and wine, prayers and our own yearning, that the miraculous may begin in us today.

□ *You are holy, you are whole*

828

† Celebrating Together with Thanksgiving

May the Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we praise your holy name, giving thanks to you with our lips and our lives... For the power and mystery of your Word by which you created us and called us to yourself, we give you thanks. For the power and mystery of your Word by which you took flesh and lived among us through your Son, Jesus Christ, we give you thanks. Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place ...we join our voices with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!

Faithful God, we offer you our praise and thanks as we return to you these holy gifts of bread and wine... Remembering that on the night of his arrest Jesus sat down to eat

with friends. During the meal, he took the bread, said a prayer, broke it and shared it with everyone at the table, saying:

“This is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me.”

At the end of the meal, he took a cup of wine and raised it, saying:

“This is God’s new covenant, made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.”

We ponder, O God, the mystery of his promise that in this meal we are joined to him and to one another as a holy people. We offer you our praise and thanks for Jesus Christ, who took flesh and lived among us, was baptized for our sins, taught us your way of truth, loved us in our lovelessness and died that we may have life.

We celebrate with great joy the resurrection of our Lord, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation as we proclaim the mystery of faith...

***Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!***

God of grace and power... you invite us to share in mysteries that are beyond our understanding; in simple trust we seek the transforming power of your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. By the miracle of your grace may they be for us your body – vibrant with your life, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you – bone of your bone – flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

In Christ, with Christ, through Christ – by the power of the Holy Spirit – all glory is yours, now and forever and so we sing, Amen...

***Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!***

*Please come forward to receive Holy Communion – everyone is welcome at this table.
If you are unable to come to the front, please signal an elder who will come and serve you.
We use gluten and dairy-free bread. Juice, wine, and pre-packaged elements are available.*

Sharing Bread and Cup

The one who was buried but rose from the dead, is now present to us in this bread.

*The one whose wounded hands were offered to the unbelieving,
now reaches out to us in this cup.*

In these gifts God comes to us so that we may come to God.

The bread of life – the cup of joy – we remember and share with thanksgiving.

Prayer

Living and loving God, what a great world it would be if we all kept our lives grafted in the True Vine and produced bountiful fruits of his Spirit.

What a great world it would be if we cared for the sick and the handicapped, the diseased and the mentally ill – if we sought the lost and bewildered – restored their dignity and hope, as Jesus did.

What a great world it would be O God, if we opened our hearts to misfits and outcasts, and our arms to the untouchables – if we practiced forgiving our enemies and doing good to those who spitefully abuse us.

What a great world it would be if we let others borrow what we have and gave gifts without looking for reward – if we created a new community out of disparate types of people, as Jesus did with his disciples.

Loving God, bind us close to Christ, let his Spirit flow within us, healing us and enabling us to produce the fruits of love both in and out of season.

We give you thanks for the holy mystery of communion in which you give yourself to us. In gratitude for this meal, and these people with whom we have shared it, we give ourselves to you. We are changed people singing together as Jesus taught...

☐ ***Our Father in heaven (The Lord's Prayer – no repeats) 469***

☐ ***What a friend we have in Jesus 746***

Blessing

People of God, go in peace as friends of Jesus to bear fruit for the kingdom of God knowing that the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon you. And may the grace of the risen Lord, the love of God and the nurturing community of the Spirit embrace us all.

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