

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.

□ ***He is Lord (repeat)***

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Call to Worship

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

We will shout to God with songs of joy.

For God is awesome, reigning over all the earth!

We will sing praises to God every day.

Let us worship God with all we have to offer.

We will offer God our love – heart, body, mind and soul!

□ ***Clap your hands all you nations (verses 1, 3, 4, 5)***

Gathering Prayer / The Lord's Prayer / Words of Hope

...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

□ ***God forgave my sin / Freely, freely***

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Prayer for Understanding

O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts to receive your Word, so that we may recognize your call to us to serve in the name of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen

Scripture Acts 1:1-11 [NT 118]

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. *"This,"* he said, *"is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

So when they had come together, they asked him, *"Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

He replied, *"It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

Ephesians 1:15-23 [NT 192]

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 24:44-53 [NT 91]

Then he said to them, *"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."* Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, *"Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Message

- *You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd* **356**

Offering and Prayer

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

Eternal and ever-present God, bless the gifts we offer today with the power of your Holy Spirit. Use them and us to witness to the love of Jesus Christ and bring healing and hope to the world in his name. Amen

Pastoral Prayers¹ (for two voices)

- *Jesus shall reign where'er the sun* **275**

Blessing

- *Go now in peace, never be afraid*

¹ Adapted from Present on Earth, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, © 2002, p. 224-6.