

Welcome / Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

*May righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more (Ps 72:7).*

**We acknowledge with gratitude the gift of this place and the original peoples. We gather on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ. Today this land is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, including survivors and intergenerational family members who have been impacted by the legacy of the residential school system. We honour them too, as we stand committed to be partners in healing, reconciliation, and justice.**

As the wise ones of old carefully observed the heavens before immersing themselves in a journey across the land, let us examine where we are and all who share this watershed, *that the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known (Eph 3:10).*

Celebrations / Joys & Concerns

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

□ *Dance with the Spirit*

*156 (More Voices)*

Call to Worship

Raise a song of joy and gladness before God.

**We will make music and sing God's praises.**

Sing aloud to God, our strength!

**We will shout for joy to the God who made us.**

Worship God who makes all things new!

**We will celebrate God's goodness in prayer and praise.**

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

God of life, you created us in love to enjoy your presence in creation. You made us in your image so that we would find purpose and possibility in our lives. You gave us Sabbath rest to breathe in your grace and peace week by week. In Jesus, you show us how to share grace and peace with one another. Refresh us in this time of worship, so that we may leave with a deep sense of well-being at our core.

God of life, you created us to enjoy your presence, yet we confess it is easy to lose track of that joy. When times are tough, we feel resentful. When someone else

succeeds, jealousy creeps in. Some days bad news is all we hear. Draw us back to your goodness and grace. In your mercy, hear our prayer and forgive our frailty. **Amen**

Jesus said, *“Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”* Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God’s gift to you. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

□ *Spirit of God, descend upon my heart*

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### Prayer for Understanding

**God of Word and Wisdom, you teach us ways that lead to healing and hope. Send your Spirit to open our minds and hearts to your Word and Wisdom, so that we may know healing and live in hope. Amen**

### Scripture **Deuteronomy 5:12-15** [OT 162]

Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you.

Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

### **2 Corinthians 4:5-12** [NT 180]

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, *“Let light shine out of darkness,”* who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

### **Mark 2:23 – 3:6** [NT 36]

One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.

The Pharisees said to him, *"Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?"*

And he said to them, *"Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions."*

Then he said to them, *"The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."*

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, *"Come forward."*

Then he said to them, *"Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?"* But they were silent.

He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, *"Stretch out your hand."* He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him

***Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God's people.***

## **Message**

□ ***We have this ministry***

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## **Offering and Prayer**

Today the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada opens, drawing commissioners from across Canada together to discern God's leading. Our offering supports the ministries and mission we undertake together, in this country and around the world. Consider how your gift to God is multiplied in the witness of our denomination, combined with so many others!

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

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**God of grace and goodness, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we receive from you, in Christ and in creation. Bless the ministries of our congregation and of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in these challenging times. Surprise us by what you accomplish through us as we sow seeds of generosity in the gifts we bring. Amen**

Vine and Branches<sup>1</sup> (an affirmation of faith)

**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.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Here is the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are gathered at his invitation to join in this meal, a foretaste of things eternal. Come all of you, taste and see that God is good.

□ *The Son of God proclaim*

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† Great Prayer of 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 our thanks and praise.**

God our Creator, your Spirit swept over the face of the waters like a mighty wind, and the world was born, full of mystery and wonder. You breathed on the dust and humankind sprang to life, made in your image to share in community with you and one another. By your Spirit, you gave us breath and speech to sing your praise with all living things. So now, with all your creatures great and small, with your saints before us, beside us and beyond us, we lift our voices to echo the song of creation...

□ 829 *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

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<sup>1</sup> Methodist – General Board of Discipleship

God our Companion, in Jesus Christ, we have seen your loving face smiling at those on the edge of the crowd, weeping with friends in the depths of despair, inviting little children to draw near, offering new possibilities for each precious soul. In this bread and this cup, you hold out new possibilities for each of us, precious as we are.

Send down your Holy Spirit with power and grace upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. With the flame of your Spirit, let us taste the passion of Jesus Christ, baked into this bread, and be moved to act with compassion in his name. With the wind of your Spirit, let us taste the renewing love of Jesus Christ that refreshes us from this cup, and be moved to greet each day with fresh hope.

As we eat and drink together today, make us one with Christ and one with each other, so that our unity and our diversity at this table may be signs of your promise that all things will be reconciled to each other through your love. We proclaim the mystery of faith...

□ **523**      ***Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

### The Story of the Table

Whenever we gather at this table, we hear the story of how God's love set this table for us, to heal our past and set us free for the future. On the night he was betrayed by friends, Jesus came to the table with those very friends. He took bread and blessed it. He broke the bread and said: *"Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."*

When the meal was ended, he took a cup and passed it among his friends saying: *"This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sin. Drink this all of you."*

So now we do as Jesus did, taking the bread and the cup. In these gifts, Jesus has promised to be present. Through these Christ can make us whole. Thanks be to God.

### Sharing Bread and Cup

*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.*

*The one who breathed on the first disciples, is present for us in this bread.  
The one whose Spirit stirred the Church at Pentecost, now revives 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

Spirit of God, blow through this world and our lives like the wind to surround us with your presence and give us the energy to go where you need us to be. Push us to move like the wind and make a difference to the lives we touch.

Spirit of God, you pray with us and within us. Lift our hopes and our hurts to Jesus' ears.

We pray for people in need today...

for all who are poor and just can't make ends meet...

for those who in sorrow because someone has died or let them down...

and for those who are worried, facing a future full of uncertainty...

Spirit of God, surround all your people with love and courage to face tomorrow, and make us good friends in Christ, offering our support to each other in Jesus' name as we sing his prayer together...

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

□ ***When we are living*** 630

## Blessing

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