

Welcome / Announcements Lilian

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).*

□ *Dance with the Spirit*

156 (MV)

Call to Worship

Let us give thanks to God with our whole hearts;

**We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Call upon God to increase our strength of soul.

**In the midst of troubling times, God reaches out to us.**

So we gather to worship God, trusting in God's goodness and guidance.

**We come to offer our prayers and praise, seeking God's renewing love day by day.**

□ *Draw the circle wide*

145 (MV)

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

Holy One, you are the rock upon which we build our lives. We sing our praise to you with joy and thanksgiving and enter this time of worship ready to open our hearts to your Holy presence. Help us to set aside the debris of our daily lives and immerse our whole being in your life-giving Spirit.

Lord, you come to us, but we do not recognize you – you call, but we do not follow – you command, but we do not obey – you bless us, but we do not thank you. Forgive and help us we pray.

Lord, you do forgive us, but we do not generously forgive those who wrong us. You love us, but we do not always love our neighbours. Forgive and help us as we pray together in confidence as Jesus encourages... **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**

### Words of Hope

All who are led by the Spirit of God are truly children of God. Give thanks and be at peace – you are forgiven.

□ *Deep in our hearts*

154 (MV)

### Prayer for Understanding

**God of grace and passion, you sent the promised gift of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the women, upon Mary the mother of Jesus, and upon his brothers. Fill your church with power – kindle flaming hearts within us and cause us to proclaim your mighty works as we are inspired by the good news today. Amen**

Scripture **1 Samuel 8:4-20 and 11:14-15** [OT 251 / 254]

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "*You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.*"

But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "*Give us a king to govern us.*"

Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, "*Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only – you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.*"

So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "*These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put*

*them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day."*

*But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."*

Samuel said to the people, *"Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship."*

So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.

### **Psalm 138**      responsive / displayed

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

**I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

**All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.**

For though the LORD is high, God regards the lowly; but perceives the haughty from far away.

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;**

you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**O LORD, fulfill your purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

## **2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1** [NT 181]

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – *"I believed, and so I spoke"* – we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## **Mark 3:20-35** [NT 37]

...and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, *"He has gone out of his mind."*

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, *"He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."*

And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, *"How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered."*

*"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" – for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."*

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, *"Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."*

And he replied, *"Who are my mother and my brothers?"* And looking at those who sat around him, he said, *"Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

***Friends, listen to what the Spirit is saying to God's people.***

Message

Offering and Prayer

The growth around us in field and garden speak of God's abundant love. What we offer to God this day spreads that abundance to those in need, for Christ's sake.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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**God of growing gardens and growing hope, receive our gifts and our gratitude this day. Bless what we bring and what we do, so that we become expressions of your abundant love, in Jesus' name. Amen**

Pastoral Prayers (response: God of grace and compassion, **embrace the world you love.**)

God of grace and compassion, we offer you our thanks for the communities in which we share – for our friends and families – our neighbours and fellow citizens, and we pray for the widening circles of our lives. We lift up those nearest and dearest to us, naming them before you with affection and gratitude, knowing that your love touches the depths of their needs and celebrates the joys of their journeys...

God of grace and compassion, **embrace the world you love.**

We celebrate the life of this church community whose worship and witness strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ and challenge us to live what we believe. Awaken us to opportunities to serve you in the friendship and fellowship we share. Grant us courage to reach out in Jesus' name into the midst of any sudden crisis or situation of deep human need.

God of grace and compassion, **embrace the world you love.**

We remember before you nations and neighbourhoods facing ongoing conflict and violence – those who crowd together in refugee compounds and homeless encampments, or face the consequences of nature's unpredictable forces. We join our prayers with the desperate wherever find themselves...

grant us courage and resilience to meet the steepest challenges and inspire our hope.

God of grace and compassion, **embrace the world you love.**

As summer approaches, we give you thanks for beauty throughout your creation, and for the refreshment and recreation it provides. Yet we feel your passion rising when we overlook the cost of our lifestyle on creation's fragile balance. Show us how to act for justice with compassion so that nothing precious – no one precious – is overlooked.

We know in our hearts the tug of your grace and concern, so we offer these and all our unspoken prayers in the name of Jesus, our friend and guide. God of grace and compassion, **embrace the world you love. Amen**

□ *I will call upon the Lord*

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### Blessing

May purity of spirit and devotion to Christ ignite our desire to build a world more humane and holy. May regard for the dignity of all and passion for enacting the love of God sustain and support our efforts to serve. And may the grace of the Risen Christ, the love of God and the nurturing community of the Holy Spirit embrace us all.

□ *Go now in peace, never be afraid*