

Welcome / Announcements/Land Acknowledgement (Anne)

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 (*enfleshed*)

God is calling us

Out of the places we hide

Out of insecurity

Out of shame

Out from under that which silences love and justice. Come out, people of God!

Though we may be afraid

Though we will be at risk

Though the cross stands as a threat

God calls us to courage!

Our God is a god of resurrection.

Of new life after devastation. Of hope in the grip of evil.

And so we dare to proclaim, with pride and faith, our truths:

We believe in the power of love.

We believe in solidarity with the suffering.

We believe we are each valuable.

We believe that our togetherness is transformative. The world is longing for Holy truths that reveal, voices that speak real words of hope. Come out, people of God!

□ *I rest in God alone*

36

Gathering Prayer

Creator God, we gather in wonder today – astonished by the complexity of all you have made – acknowledging how small each of us is in the midst of your world. Yet your love gives us significance. When we are overcome by forces beyond our control, you speak words of peace. When trouble or sorrow sets in, you give us strength to persevere. Source, Saviour and Spirit of life, we offer you praise and honour, love and loyalty, with our lips and with our lives as we offer this Disciples Prayer together...

The Disciples Prayer (*enfleshed*)

Mother of us all, who dwells within and beyond, sacred is your name. May your holy vision for collective flourishing come to fruition among us. May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be enfleshed on earth. Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart. Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us. Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from the hands of evil. For you are the ultimate source of hope. Your power-with exceeds all power-over. Your presence incites eternal wonder. All praise to you, our comfort and strength. Amen

Poem
Koep

questions to an undeserving mediator

written & presented by Ruby

Music improvisation for reflection

Ruby Koep

Prayer for Understanding (*enfleshed*)

Holy Wisdom, we ask that your Spirit guide us in meditation on your word, that we might be led more deeply into knowledge of you and love for all your creatures and creations. Amen

Scripture **Mark 4:35-41** [NT 39]

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "*Let us go across to the other side.*" And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "*Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?*"

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "*Peace! Be still!*"

Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "*Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?*"

And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "*Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*"

Galatians 3:19-29 [NT 189]

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made, and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. Now a mediator involves more than one party, but God is one.

Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through the faith of Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise

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

Message Ruby Koep

□ *Will you come and follow me*

634

Offering and Prayer

The Scriptures teach us of the courage it takes to serve God. Giving takes courage, too. So give to God as you are able, trusting that God will honour your courage and generosity with the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

306

Generous God, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, grateful for your patience with us as your purposes unfold. Bless these gifts to accomplish your will and your work in the world you love so much. Amen

Pastoral Prayers and an Invitation to Confession (PCC resources and *enfleshed*)

God in whom we live and move and have our being, as we consider the world around us today, we are grateful to know you are near. We thank you that your presence will not fail us, no matter the challenges we face. Help us trust that you never give up on

situations which we find overwhelming. In faithful silence, we lay before you the concerns on our hearts...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

...we pray for those people and places who have been in the headlines this week, and for all who cry out to you in situations we can't even imagine...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

...we pray for those suffering from illness of any sort, coping with pain or ongoing treatment, for those waiting for or recovering from surgery, and for those who are bereaved or burdened by any deep loss...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for students and teachers, and all who serve in educational settings. As graduations take place, bless all the learning that has occurred this year. Grant rest and renewal to each learner and teacher...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our congregation and its ministries, its leaders and volunteers, and the faithful work of all churches in our community. Unite us in our witness to the love of Jesus as you open our eyes to new possibilities to serve together...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Justice – God of Compassion – God of Sacred and Scandalous ways, we have so much still to learn. By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply – its mess, its complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day.

Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us. You draw us into the heart of Wisdom – saving us from the lies of destruction. Turning us towards hope that liberates. But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you.

And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt. Or weary...
We betray the very One who brought us thus far.

We confess, we still shame Jesus, when he turns over tables.

We confess, we still condemn Jesus, when he breaks the rules to which we are loyal.

We confess, while Jesus is torn from the arms of his mother by immigration services, killed by his own lovers – so afraid to step outside the box of being heterosexual, cisgender and monogamous

and sitting lonely on the street with no family to welcome them home, our loyalties are often elsewhere.

Our priorities are not your own.

Search our hearts, O God, and see if there is any fear within us. Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free. Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

(Invitation to name our own sins/transgressions by writing them on slips of paper.)

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.

God does not bind us to our regrets.

Or forever hold us to what we once believed.

God says, come and follow! Know forgiveness and sin no more.

Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!

Wherever new life is desired, may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.

Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection. **Amen**

Burning our Sins/Transgressions

□ *Dona nobis pacem*

737

Blessing

You are a child of God – sufficiently beautiful and sufficiently flawed to receive the costly grace of Jesus. Go your way with a resilient and cheerful spirit – and may the grace of the Risen Christ, the love of God and the nurturing community of the Spirit embrace us all.

□ *Go now in peace, never be afraid*

□ *Jesus drove an Astrovan by Mt. Joy* – Ruby Koep