

Welcome / Announcements

Lorraine

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

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Call to Worship

We come together in a rainbow of hope and love.

We come together with fear & trembling for the new world we participate in creating.

With open arms – with pride and joy – we welcome people from every nation and ethnic community – gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, straight, young, old, physically challenged and athlete, people with questions and those with all the answers – all are welcome here.

No one is excluded from Christ's table.

God's love includes everyone!

We are one in the Spirit – Alleluia – Amen!

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised in all places and at all times. You have made all things and called them good. You created humans in your image. You gave us breath and life, a calling and a purpose. Filled with love for all creation, you lift up leaders and send out disciples to take part in your reconciling work in the world. Your love is endless, your mercy without measure, your faithfulness without limit. And so we praise you with all our strength, mind, heart and soul, in the name of Jesus, your Son, led by your Spirit who guides us day by day.

Gracious and loving God, we open our hearts to you. We confess that there have been times when we have turned away from you. There have been times when we have hurt and rejected our neighbours. Sometimes it has been difficult to love and accept ourselves. All of us have participated in the systemic oppressions that are part of our culture. Forgive us for our racism, sexism, homophobia, and economic elitism. Give us the courage to stand up for the dignity and rights of all our siblings. Make us willing to change our lives in response to your call to love our neighbours and to create a world of peace and justice for all of your beloved. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Friends, God hears our confessions with an ever merciful and loving heart and forgives us repeatedly. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Let us rejoice in this good news!

□ We are one in the Spirit

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Prayer for Understanding **Mary**

God of wisdom and warning, we long to hear your word for our times and our lives. By the power of your Spirit, open the Scriptures for us. Prepare us to be challenged and changed as we encounter Christ, your Living Word. Amen

Scripture **Genesis 9:8-17** **[OT 7]**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the

sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Acts 10:9b-15 and 24-29a [NT 129]

Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while it was being prepared he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, *“Get up, Peter; kill and eat.”*

But Peter said, *“By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.”*

The voice said to him again, a second time, *“What God has made clean, you must not call profane.”*

...The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. On Peter’s arrival, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, worshiped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, *“Stand up; I am only a mortal.”*

And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled, and he said to them, *“You yourselves know that it is improper for a Jew to associate with or to visit an outsider, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection.”*

Micah 6:8 [OT 866]

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Message

□ *God of the sparrow, God of the whale*

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Offering and Prayer

Friends, on this day of pride and joy let us share our gifts with our church and the world.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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Spirit of openness and affirmation, we dedicate these gifts to the ministry of love and acceptance in the world. May we seek to use our resources to support a world and church where all are welcome and honoured – loved and fully known. We pray in the name of Jesus who welcomed everyone to the table. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

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I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

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.

□ Here is bread: here is wine

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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.

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**

□ *God bless your church with strength* **491 (tune #274)**

Blessing

May the God of the rainbow bless and fill us with hope, strength, joy, and peace as we go forth to do the work of love in the world. As we open our hearts, God is with us – Jesus walks beside us on the journey – the Spirit guides us in a good way.

□ *Go now in peace, never be afraid*