

28 July 2024 – Proclaiming the Year of Jubilee

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.*
[Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4:18-19]

Welcome / Announcements

Ursula

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 (Psalm 146 – selected verses)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

We will praise the Lord as long as we live;

We will sing praises to God all our life long.

□ *We are the singers*

<https://musiklus.com/product/we-are-the-singers/>

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

Mighty and merciful God, we meet to celebrate your greatness. We join with the hosts of heaven to sing your praise and to offer ourselves to you in worship. You are worthy of adoration from every mouth and every tongue should praise you. You created by your power; you save by your mercy – making us new by your grace. We offer grateful praise.

Holy One, Jesus calls us to preach good news to the poor, but we have not remembered the poor and the hungry. The world is making slow progress in feeding the hungry. Each day tens of thousands of children die of hunger. And although people in Canada rarely die of hunger, many people in our country experience hunger every day.

Eternal God, we confess that we have tried to hide from you because we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbours and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and follow Jesus...

□ Take, O take me as I am – summon out what I shall be – set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us – Christ lives in power for us – Christ prays for us. Thanks be to God – we are forgiven!

Prayer for Understanding (responsive) **Kathy**

Liberator Christ, you came into a holy place and read the sacred word about sight for the blind and freedom for prisoners.

Come to this place now. Read these words to us until our own eyes are opened, our faith unlocked, and we can see the world as it is – as it could be.

Until the yearnings of ordinary people are taken seriously; until your kingdom is celebrated everywhere, and your church is good news to all. Amen.

Scripture **Isaiah 25:4-9** **[OT 652]**

For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will

wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, *Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*

Luke 4:14-21 [NT 61]

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.* And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them, *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

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

Message *Remembering people who are hungry*

□ *Lord, in this broken world*

723 (tune: ???)

Offering and Prayer

God's goodness flourishes around us. Our gifts to God are a token of our gratitude for all God's goodness. These gifts help to share that goodness through the ministries we undertake in Jesus' name.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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God of goodness and growth, we release these gifts to be part of the teaching, healing, feeding, life-giving ministries of Jesus. We bring them, knowing they are yours anyway, and only ours to use and share. Bless our gifts so that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. Receive them as a sign of our commitment to you and transform our lives to be Christ in the world. Amen

Pastoral Prayers / The Lord's Prayer

Response: We pray for the hungry and the fed...

God have mercy.

Loving God, you came among us in the person of Jesus to know this world's joys and tribulations, to feel its hungers and hurts, to foster growth in spirit and in truth. Today we offer our prayers for people of this world whose lives reflect human neglect and call out for the touch of your compassion and justice.

We pray for those who hunger in this land: whose only kitchen is a soup kitchen, whose only food is what others don't want, whose diet depends on luck rather than on planning.

Generous Creator, feed your people using our skills and our conscience; eradicate from our politics and private lives the apathy to hunger which comes from over-eating.

We pray for the hungry and the fed... **God have mercy.**

We pray for the hungry in other lands: whose economies, burdened by debt, cannot respond to human need; or where fields are farmed for our benefit by low-wage workers courted by starvation.

Jesus, feed your people – even if rulers must cancel debt, and shareholders lose profit, or diners restrict their choice – in order that all may be nourished.

We pray for the hungry and the fed... **God have mercy.**

We pray for those hungry for justice, who document inequalities, demonstrate against tyranny, distinguish between need and greed, and are sometimes misrepresented or persecuted in the process.

May their labour not be in vain and may we be counted in their number.

We pray for the hungry and the fed... **God have mercy.**

In the presence of Jesus, the Bread of Life, the one who refused food for himself in order to nourish others, we deepen our devotion as we pray together... ***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***

□ We cannot own the sunlit sky

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Blessing

Walk in the brightness of God's Word as you leave worship. Look around at the seeds bearing fruit around you and consider how you bear the fruit of God's Word in your life.

May the God who feeds the hungry fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope as God the Spirit brings you growth – God the Son tends you

with wisdom – and God the Source blesses you with opportunities to make a difference in the world in Jesus' name. Amen

□ May the God of hope go with us every day

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