

## 04 August 2024 – Communion/Banner Dedication

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement      Fiona

**As we gather for worship in Jesus' name, we remember that we do so on the traditional and unceded territory of the ləkʷəŋən and the WSÁNEĆ – Esquimalt and Songhees nations. We acknowledge their stewardship of this land through the ages. As we pray, reflect, and celebrate in this place, we do so as guests lamenting past and current injustice. We ask God to lead us along paths of reconciliation – inspiring new relationships of respect and solidarity.**

Celebrations / Joys and Concerns      *God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.  
God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on you.*

➤ *Come, now is the time to worship*

Call to Worship

Bless the Lord with heart and soul, for God is great.

**We will bless God in this time of worship!**

God sends forth the Spirit to renew the face of the ground.

**God, renew us in this time of worship!**

Let us sing praise to God as long as we live.

**We will sing to our God while we have breath, and so we come to worship.**

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

God of majesty and mystery, you are the source of all that is. Your breadth and depth are beyond our imagining. Your grace defies our explanations. You touch us with comfort or challenge when we least expect it. Receive our prayer and praise this day, as we seek the Bread of Life in this time of worship.

God of mystery and mercy, you know the details of our lives. You see the sin and the sorrow we bear. You see how we take advantage of each other, and how we overlook one another. We confess we do not always see what you see, O God, so open our eyes and cleanse our hearts with your grace.

We come to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, knowing your Holy Spirit prays within us and lifts our hearts to you. **Amen**

God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. The good news is that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven – we receive his peace, a peace such as the world cannot give. Thanks be to God!

➤ *Morning has broken*

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Banner Dedication and A Prayer for Quilters

Gracious God, as celebrate those who design, arrange and assemble from many pieces the quilts that are the products of their own abilities and dedication, we remember your creative activity in this world.

We are grateful for your creation of a planet varied in colour and texture, for your design of humanity as a crazy quilt of races and cultures.

We appreciate as individuals the way your Spirit works to stitch together the pieces of our lives, to do so with the kind of loving care that goes into making the most beautiful of quilts.

We acknowledge your ultimate skill as Maker and Shaper of all that is good. We ask that you bless the creative work of Wendy and Anne's hands. Encourage each one of us to exercise our talents in celebration of you. May all that we do express the joy in our hearts.

We pray in the name of Jesus – craftsman and teacher, redeemer and friend. **Amen**

➤ *The Lord is my song*

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Prayer for Understanding Heather

**Source of all wisdom, despite our distractions, help us focus attention on you. Amid competing voices, attune our ears to your Word, for we seek bread for our journey through Jesus, the Christ. Amen**

Scripture **Ephesians 4:1-16** (NT 193)

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he

had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**John 6:24-35** (NT 98)

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, *"Rabbi, when did you come here?"*

Jesus answered them, *"Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."*

Then they said to him, *"What must we do to perform the works of God?"*

Jesus answered them, *"This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."*

So they said to him, *"What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

Then Jesus said to them, *"Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

They said to him, *"Sir, give us this bread always."*

Jesus said to them, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

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

## Message

### ➤ *Amigos de Cristo / Friends of the Lord* 476

#### Offering and Prayer

The Letter to the Ephesians challenges us to lead a life worthy of the calling we have in Christ Jesus. We offer our gifts to God to support the calling we share to build up the body of Christ in the world God loves.

### ➤ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* 306

**Good and generous God, bless the gifts we offer, as well as our efforts to serve others in Jesus' name. Use what we have and what we do to support the work of the Church here and around the world. 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

The celebration of communion is always a festival of friends – where we gather around the table with all our hopes and dreams, longing for a glimpse of the holy.

It is here, where bread is broken and the cup is shared, that we can be most truly ourselves – seeing ourselves and others as children of the living God. Here, that which is earthly becomes divine and that which is human becomes more than has ever been dreamed.

Come to the table – all are welcome. Christ invites us to meet him here.

### ➤ *Come, share the Lord*

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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 good to give God 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. You may choose either juice, wine.*

*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

Loving God, we offer thanks this day for the church – body of Christ, vessel of the Spirit, family of faith, witness in the world. Help us consider Jesus in all we do, letting our decisions be made as with his mind – our relationships formed as with his heart – our deeds done as with his hands. Encourage us to go where the Spirit moves us – individually and as communities of faith – opening ourselves to possibilities of service that you imagine for us and equip us to accomplish. Enable each one of us to be bold witnesses, for we know that the world needs good news, and we sense in our spirits the importance of conveying your love to all.

Holy God, in gratitude for this meal – these people – we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live a changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us – expect much from us – enable much by us – encourage many through us. And may we live to your glory in all we do. We sing Jesus' prayer together...

Blessing

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we go forth into the world, to fulfill our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

Go in peace – love and care for one another in Christ's name; the blessing of Christ Jesus, the one who traded good for evil and love for hate, be upon you.

May the abundant grace of Jesus Christ, the generous love of God, and the continuing support of the Holy Spirit embrace us all. Amen