

08 September 2024

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement **Kittie**

We recognize that the land where we gather for worship belongs to God, as does all of creation. We also know we are here as guests on the traditional and unceded territory of the ləkʷəŋən and the WSÁNEĆ – Esquimalt and Songhees nations. May we continue asking God to forgive us for injustices we are directly or indirectly part of and may we be led along paths of reconciliation and solidarity.

➤ *Come, now is the time to worship*

Call to Worship

We have come, O God, seeking you...

Seeking your presence – your peace – your community

May we sense your presence here among us as we gather

Revive us again, O Lord, as we worship together!

➤ *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

321

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

Holy One, we have come to worship seeking you, yet you have been beside us all the time.

Help us to be more confident of your presence.

We give thanks for the joy of knowing you and praise you at all times. We delight that we can trust in you, O God. From the depths of our being and the fullness of our soul we feel blessed by your steadfastness.

Because you love and nurture us, O God, we know we can safely come to you for mercy...

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you my sisters and brothers in Christ, that I have sinned by my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. I pray that God Almighty might have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

May Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins and give you time to amend your life.

Amen

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you my sisters and brothers in Christ, that I have sinned by my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. I pray that God Almighty might have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

May Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins and give you time to amend your life.

Amen

Those who rely on God's grace cannot be defeated.
Be at peace knowing that you are loved, and you are forgiven.

➤ *Open my eyes, that I may see*

500

Prayer for Understanding **Heather**

O God of compassion, stretch our faith. Move us to journey as wide as your grace extends. Fill us with your Holy Spirit in the words of scripture today. Empower us to speak boldly of your justice in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen

Scripture **Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23** **(OT 604)**

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Psalm 125 **responsive/displayed**

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds the people of God, from this time on and forevermore.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts.

But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers.

Peace be upon Israel!

James 2:1-10, 14-17 (NT 229)

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?

For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, *"Have a seat here, please,"* while to the one who is poor you say, *"Stand there,"* or, *"Sit at my feet,"* have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, *"Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,"* and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7:24-37 (NT 42)

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

He said to her, *"Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."*

But she answered him, *"Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."*

Then he said to her, *"For saying that, you may go--the demon has left your daughter."*

So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, *"Ephphatha,"* that is, *"Be opened."*

And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

They were astounded beyond measure, saying, *"He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."*

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

Message

➤ ***I heard the voice of Jesus say*** **671**

Offering and Prayer

The Book of Proverbs declares that those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. While we do not bring bread today, we offer our gifts trusting God to use them to meet needs of those who are in need.

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

Generous God, you call us to reach out to those in need with kindness rather than judgment – with generosity. Bless our gifts and our actions for Christ's sake, so that our faith in his love will show in the work of the Church that bears his name. Amen

Pastoral Prayers / The Lord's Prayer

Lord, God of all creation, we come to you in prayer – the one who made us and loves us. We praise you for the beauty and strength of all you have made. We ask you to open our eyes to see what greed and mismanagement are doing to your creation.

We give you thanks and praise for resting when your creating was complete and for calling it good. Help us to find moments of Sabbath rest, times of re-creation, of study and prayer that we may be renewed and restored for the great and small tasks to which you have called us.

We praise you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus into the world for our salvation. He died but rose to life again, creating a new community of faith and hope. Come Lord Jesus, be in our hearts and give us your peace.

We pray for those who know only war, hunger, thirst, lack of shelter, pain and disease... We ask you to be in those places, that those who are there may also find your Sabbath rest.

We are thankful that we live in a place where justice is part of our lives, but that justice is often overlooked in our own society. Be in those places where injustice and inhumanity are the way of life.

Lord, hear our prayer and the prayers of every heart and mind in accordance with your will. In this time of silence, we remember people and situations – concerns that weigh us down and blessings that lift us up – we remember in prayer before you...

Gracious God, in your mercy, hear us as we pray together in confidence as Jesus teaches...
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

➤ *Oh for a world where everyone*

730

Blessing

Go forth from this place of Sabbath renewal into the world of chaos and activity. Carry the peace of Christ in your heart. Witness to and share your belief with all people. And may the blessing of God – Parent, Sibling, Spirit – nourish and embrace us all. Amen

➤ *May the God of hope go with us every day*

726