

15 September 2024 – Congregational Meeting / Emergency Drill

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 ɫəkʷəŋən 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 are not our own

neither our will nor our wisdom should get in the way of God's hopes for us.

We are not on our own

we should not choose what is easiest or the most gratifying way to live.

We are not our own, we are God's

let us choose to live for God and serve all God's children.

We are not our own, as we walk the streets of God's kingdom

as far as is possible, we will forget ourselves and follow Jesus Christ.

We are God's people gathered in worship.

□ Teach me, God, to wonder

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Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

Gracious and loving God, your gentle spirit has stirred deep within us. You have called us from many places and backgrounds to celebrate your presence, to give thanks, and to grow together as a community of faith. May our hearts and minds be open to your wisdom, love and blessings. May we express our deepest faith and love through who we are and what we are called to do.

When we are tempted to evade the accusations of others, give us the courage to face issues directly. When we are tempted to take advantage of our power or position, give us the courage to walk in the shoes of the powerless. When we are tempted to compromise the truth, give us the courage to stand for what we know to be right.

Divine Spirit, open our minds and ears to recognize your presence with us as we seek to live a compassionate and generous life. Open our hearts to support one another as we continue to journey in your way. **Amen**

With gentleness, God speaks to us – with graciousness, God forgives us – with joy, God embraces us. With our lips, we praise God – with our words, we thank God – with our silence, we find God – in our hearts.

□ **Lead me, Jesus; I will follow**

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Prayer for Understanding **Dennis**

God of Wisdom, the Psalmist tells us your law is perfect, making the simple wise. Send your Holy Spirit to focus our attention on your Word, so we may grow wiser as we learn to follow Jesus, your Living Word. Amen

Scripture **Proverbs 1: 20-33(OT 584)**

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

Psalm 19 **responsive/displayed**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth, & their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from proud thoughts; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Mark 8: 27-38 (NT 43)

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, *"Who do people say that I am?"*

And they answered him, *"John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."*

He asked them, *"But who do you say that I am?"*

Peter answered him, *"You are the Messiah."*

And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, *"Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."*

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those*

who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Message

□ Will you come and follow me

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Offering and Prayer

Jesus challenged the disciples to take up the cross and follow him. Whatever we freely offer today speaks of how we take up this challenge in our time. So, give with grateful, loyal hearts.

□ Praise God from whom all blessings flow

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Generous God, you poured out your love for us through Jesus Christ, who gave up everything on the cross. We bring what we have in love and loyalty. Receive our gratitude and bless all that our gifts can do to share your love in the world. Amen

Pastoral Prayers / The Lord's Prayer

God of inspiration and imagination, you are the artist of our lives – filling your world with gifts, expressed through the creativity and dedication of so many. We give thanks for a new season of opportunity to gather in worship and witness, learning from you and from each other.

Artist of our lives – **awaken our gifts to serve you.**

Today we give thanks for the artists among us – offering their inspiring gifts. Thank you for painters and poets – for lines on a canvas and lines on a page, which inspire and leave us wondering. Thank you for sculptors and storytellers who fashion faces in stone and scenes in words to outline the profile of your truth for us.

Artist of our lives – **awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of grace and goodness, we know your creativity in the arts of fabric and foodstuff, in hands that work with wood and keep machinery humming. We give you thanks for those who stitch patterns with thread, and those who set patterns on our plates, mixing colours and flavours. Thank you for those who build and repair, refinish and restore the things we need and the things we cherish.

Artist of our lives – **awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of music and movement, we know your beauty in the gifts of keyboard and composer, in the blending of voices and the bending of dancers. We thank you for these sounds and sights that touch our hearts and open our souls to praise you. We pray for artists of every kind, that their work will find appreciation and support throughout our community.

Artist of our lives – **awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of hope and healing, we thank you for the healing arts – for the care and relief offered by professionals in our health care system and for support given by friends and volunteers. We pray for all who seek healing – for body, mind or spirit. Give each one your presence and peace through our prayer and friendship. Awaken us to all to our creative potential to serve the divine in serving each other. Hear our prayers, silent and spoken, summed up in the words Jesus taught...***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***

☐ *Be thou my vision*

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Blessing

Go now with God who covers us with tender mercies – with Jesus who is our good companion – with the Spirit who gives us food at the Table and living water to nourish us. Go ahead, knowing that God will direct us, bringing delight as we journey in faith. May the blessing of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – embrace us all.

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

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Congregational Meeting

- Receive 2023 Financial Statements
- Collaboration/Amalgamation Update – including monthly shared worship (Oct 6 @ St. A's)
- Worshipping with Synod at Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian – Oct. 20
- Laura & Steve on holiday (Oct. 13 – Nov.2)

Emergency Evacuation Drill