

27 October 2024 – *Reformation And All Saints Day*

Welcome/Announcements/Land Acknowledgement **Martha Anderson (worship elder)**

**Welcome to this place. We acknowledge with gratitude the *ləkwəŋən* and the *WSÁNEĆ* – Esquimalt and Songhees nations – on whose traditional territory we gather for worship. For many thousands of years, they have sought to walk gently on this land. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land – one based in honour and respect.**

➤ *Come, now is the time to worship*

Call to Worship

Within these walls we come together.

**We seek to worship God, the creator of all!**

Along with the saints of all time,

**We join our voices in prayer and song!**

In this time and in this place,

**We seek the presence of the One who created the cosmos!**

And so we humbly cry out,

**Let us worship God!**

➤ *song #611 For All the Saints (verses 1,2,3,7 & 8)*

Gathering Prayer / The Lord's Prayer / Words of Hope

Loving God, you have led us to this place. Not to shield us from the heartache and the pain of human life, but to heal us, to inspire us; to gently redirect us until we see the world as you do, and live in it with your love. Liberator Christ, you came into the places of people's lives and spoke a living word to them. Come to this place now. Speak to us in these moments till our eyes are opened, our faith is unlocked, and we can see the world as it is - and as it could be. Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places who have praised your name, calm us into quietness. Give us the ease to breathe deeply the miracle of now. Open our eyes to something more than we expect - to justice and joy. Push us deep to face ourselves. Dissolve our pride, shrink our anxieties, enlarge our wonder, our trust and our faith. Entice our spirits from self preoccupation. Shivel our moments of judgment, or indifference. Challenge our silences at injustice. Enfold us in your presence. Renew us with your power. Restore in us your peace. And ground us in your grace. And hear us as we pray in the words that Jesus taught his friends:

*... 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*

**Words of assurance:**

God says to us - *Do not remember the former things - or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing. I am the One who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah)* To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say to you, in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

➤ *song #636 When Voices are Confusing*

Prayer for Understanding **A unison prayer led by the lay reader (Anne Krauss)**

**God of Hope, amid all the concerns in the world around us, we turn to your Word. Send your Holy Spirit to still our thoughts and speak your wisdom to us. Fill us with the humble confidence we meet in Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.**

Scriptures

**Jeremiah 31:7-9 (PG. 734 OT)**

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations[a] I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

**Psalms 34: 1-8, 19-22 (responsive) (PG. 508 OT)**

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.**

Look to him, and be radiant,  
so your[a] faces shall never be ashamed.

**This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord  
and was saved from every trouble.**

The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him and delivers them.

**O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord rescues them from them all.

**He keeps all their bones;  
not one of them will be broken.**

Evil brings death to the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

**The Lord redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

### **Mark 10: 46-52 (PG. 47 NT)**

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher,[a] let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

### **Message**

➤ ***song #500 Open my eyes that I may see***

### Offering and Prayer

Let us respond in love, with joy and with praise to our God, in the presentation of our offerings.

### Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, we rejoice in your love, your mercy and all the goodness that you show to us. Accept these offerings that we seek to make of ourselves, and of our money. Grant that we may always work and pray to build a world of hope, peace, joy and freedom. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

➤ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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### Pastoral Prayers

Holy God, breathe into us the restlessness and the courage to take the risks that you place before us. Give us boldness to speak the truth, and to have unrelenting faith in the power of your transforming love at work in us, through us and around us. Shape us in wonder, gratitude and obedience. Create in us hopeful hearts, as we face our broken and divided world. Turn your Spirit loose here and us with it, to love all those we meet. We pray for people who face discrimination because of their race, religion, gender orientation, or ethnicity. Open our eyes so that we may learn to see each other differently, each one as precious to you. God of mercy, we pray for peace in our world that is marked by so much violence, anger and conflict. For families torn asunder by war ... for those who are broken ... in despair ... and sorrow. Jesus Christ, light in our darkness, lighten the burdens of those we bring to you in the silence of our hearts. For those who are grieving, .....those who are afraid.....for those who are sick, and in pain.... For those who have been rejected ....May your healing love bring wholeness and new life. Send us out as your faithful people, filled with joy, hope and love. Strengthen us to serve you in the places you have called us to until that day when we feast with you and all the saints in glory. Amen

➤ *song #634 Will you come and follow me*

### Blessing

Beloved, go! Go out into the world, ready to fulfill your calling as servants of Christ. God chooses you for unexpected outpourings of grace! Go in peace, filled with hope and confidence, and may the love of our God, Creator, Christ and Spirit be with you this day and always. Amen

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

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