

Welcome/Announcements/Land Acknowledgement April Watt (worship elder)

**As we come to worship in Jesus' name we acknowledge with gratitude and respect the Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ – on whose traditional and unceded territory we gather.**

Celebrations / Joys & Concerns

*God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.*

*God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on you.*

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come

**And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

➤ *There is room for all*

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

God of power and might, God of grace and mercy, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joys and sorrows, displaying your greatness in the child of the manger. We praise you for your amazing love, great enough to embrace the expanding universe, yet close enough to enter our humble hearts. During this time worship, surprise us with your grace once again, that we, with the whole Church and your precious creation, may praise and honour your holy name, O God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

**God of goodness and guidance, in Christ you sent us light to live by, yet we seek shadows in which to hide. In him, you promise new life, but we prefer old habits, nursing grievances and clinging to familiar opinions. You are generous with your love, but we reject neighbors and fear strangers who differ from us. Remake us in the image of your Son with your mercy and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead.**

We pray together in the name of Jesus who gave us this prayer... **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**

Assurance of Pardon (Based on *Living Faith* 3.6.1)

Here is the good news of the Gospel! Jesus Christ is God's elect, chosen for our salvation. In him we find God's acceptance. Let us give thanks to God for this gift and be at peace with ourselves and with one another.

➤ *Worship the lord in the beauty of holiness* 174

Prayer for Understanding (Amanda McAlpine)

**O God, through your Word all things came into being. In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh in Christ Jesus and lived among us. As we hear your written Word, help us to see your truth and to testify to it, that all might believe in your Living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture: Psalm 147:12-20 [responsive/displayed]

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

**Praise your God, O Zion!**

For the Lord strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your children within you.

**The Lord grants peace within your borders, and fills you with the finest of wheat.**

The Lord sends out a command to the earth; the word runs swiftly.

**The Lord gives snow like wool, and scatters frost like ashes.**

The Lord hurls down hail like crumbs – who can stand before such cold?

**The Lord issues a command and melts them, makes the wind blow and the waters flow.**

The Lord issues commands to Jacob, gives statutes and ordinances to Israel.

**The Lord has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know God's ordinances.**

***Praise the Lord!***

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14 [NT 192]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,<sup>[e]</sup> having been

destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Scripture: **John 1:1-18** [NT 91]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message: The Word who became flesh

➤ *Lord the light of your love is shining*

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Offering and Prayer of Dedication.

**God of majesty and mystery, we bring our gifts to you, grateful that you are with us in good times and hard times. We do not know what the year ahead will hold but your love shines like a star to guide us. Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ shining through the church to offer the world truth and wisdom, healing and hope in Jesus name. Amen.**

➤ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* 306

The Apostles' Creed 539

**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

➤ *All who hunger gather gladly* 534

Celebrating Together with Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we give you thanks and praise. You commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land...

...who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**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....**

Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup and give you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

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 or wine.*

Prayer

Blessing

➤ *Go now in peace*