

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

As followers of Jesus, we are compelled to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. It is our love of God and neighbour that leads us to acknowledge the land where we gather. We honour God with gratitude for this land and the peoples who have fished, hunted, harvested and gathered here for generations. This is the Coast Salish Territory of Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ. It is traditional and unceded land. We pray that past and present injustices can be reconciled as we commit ourselves to just and respectful relationships.

➤ *There is room for all*

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Let us make melody before our God!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Let us praise God's holy name together.

How good it is to sing praises to our God;

For God is gracious and steadfast in mercy.

A song of praise is always fitting,

For God heals the broken hearted and binds up our wounds.

Let us worship God!

➤ *Come, let us sing to the Lord our song*

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✠Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

We gather this morning as a circle of friends within the greater circle of faith O God and we give you thanks that you embrace us with your love and power.

Holy God, encourage us to love our true selves. To cherish that deep soul which is poor, meek, hungry, sorrowful often persecuted, and which yearns for communion with you. Set us free to reach for you with joyful worship, overflowing with wonderment and love.

We know you root those who trust in you by streams of healing water. As we gather today, release us from the bonds of disease, free us from the power of evil, and turn us from falsehood and illusion, that we may find the blessing of new life in you through the power of Christ. Amen

Christ has been raised from death, and because he has been raised, we are no longer lost in sin. Blessed are you, for Christ will raise you to life and laughter. Your sins are forgiven – be at peace.

➤ *Blest are they*

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✠ Prayer for Understanding **Lilian Sutherland**

Holy One, you are the source of wisdom and understanding. In the midst of all that distracts – help us listen in stillness. In the midst of competing voices – may we hear your Word for our lives and our times. By your Spirit, help us discern Jesus' call to follow him. Amen

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:1-20 [NT 176]

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

Message

➤ *In Christ alone*

✠ Offering and Prayer

God has been with us throughout our history and God is with us now. God will be with us in the future. Let us return some of the gifts we have been given to participate in God's work.

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

Generous God, we give thanks for all the blessings we know in this life and for the opportunity to give back. Use our offerings and our service to touch human lives and communities with the gentleness of your grace and the vitality of your goodness. Amen

✠ Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

God of mystery and mercy, we come before you today carrying hopes and dreams – the burdens and blessings of our lives. We bring all that is on our hearts and minds to you, seeking comfort and strength – listening for your guidance – grateful that you hear us when we pray.

God of life and love, we give thanks that you engage us whenever we need you, amid challenge and uncertainty. We pray today for all who are fearful about their future – all who wrestle with challenges at work or at home.

God of hope and healing, in Jesus Christ you confronted demons that trouble our minds – the pain and illness that can weigh us down. We pray today for those facing health concerns – all who care for the suffering and those in need of support...

Surround each one with your steadfast love.

God of peace and promise, when we wrestle with any burden, your Spirit prays within us with sighs too deep for words. Today we pray for all whose burdens seem too heavy to bear – for victims of violence or disaster and for their friends and families...

– for refugees at risk in so many places in the world, and those making a new home in our community...

– for those caught in despair or poverty in our own neighbourhoods and in the forgotten corners of your world...

Renew the strength of all facing realities beyond their control.

Receive our prayers – spoken and unspoken – and equip us to do your will as together we pray in Jesus' name ...**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**

➤ *Amazing Grace, my chains are gone*

Blessing

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

May you trust – may you be blessed – may you continue to bear the fruit of the gospel in the world by the grace of God – Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

➤ *Go now in peace*