

Welcome, Announcements, and Land Acknowledgement **Kittie Ure** (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.

Celebrations / Joys and Concerns

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

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

□ *Don't be afraid* (repeat)

Call to Worship

In the bulb, there is a flower.

In the seed, there is a tree.

In the midst of this community, there is a Spirit

That awakens us to God's vision of abundant life

Revealed most fully in and through Jesus Christ.

Let us worship God who creates, redeems and sustains us!

† Gathering Prayer and Words of Hope

□ *Come sing, O Church, in joy*

757

† Prayer for Understanding (**Mary Dimech**)

Holy God, source of all wisdom, by your Word, you give light to the soul. Pour out your spirit of understanding on us, so that our hearts and minds may be opened to know your truth and your way. Amen

Scripture **Acts 9:1-20** [NT 127]

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, *"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

He asked, *"Who are you, Lord?"*

The reply came, *"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."*

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, *"Ananias."*

He answered, *"Here I am, Lord."*

The Lord said to him, *"Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."*

But Ananias answered, *"Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."*

But the Lord said to him, *"Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."*

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, *"Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, *"He is the Son of God."*

John 21:1-19 [NT 115]

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.

Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, *"I am going fishing."*

They said to him, *"We will go with you."*

They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, *"Children, you have no fish, have you?"*

They answered him, *"No."*

He said to them, *"Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some."* So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, *"It is the Lord!"*

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them, *"Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."*

So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, *"Come and have breakfast."*

Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, *"Who are you?"* because they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, *"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"*

He said to him, *"Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."*

Jesus said to him, *"Feed my lambs."*

A second time he said to him, *"Simon son of John, do you love me?"*

He said to him, *"Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."*

Jesus said to him, *"Tend my sheep."*

He said to him the third time, *"Simon son of John, do you love me?"*

Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, *"Do you love me?"* And he said to him, *"Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."*

Jesus said to him, *"Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."* (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, *"Follow me."*

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

□ *You, Lord are both lamb and shepherd* 356

Transfer of Membership – Norma Sills

† Offering Invitation

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* 306

† Offering Prayer

Gracious God, you have given us life and furnished it with much beauty and blessing. In Christ you have given yourself to us. So, we offer to you a portion of what we have received to share in the work of your kingdom. Use our energy and ability for your purposes for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen

An Affirmation of Faith: *Vine and Branches*¹

We believe in God, the Root of all living, Creator of all things.

We live in Christ Jesus, God's Son, who loved all people and who makes us one in his love. He suffered, died and was raised to new life. In his death and resurrection, we are also raised to life that is transformed. Christ is our Vine, and we are his branches; and without him we cannot live.

We live by the Holy Spirit, flowing through us so that we may bear fruit for God, the fruit of love. In the Spirit we are one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

We trust in the one holy church, the communing of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the mystery of resurrection, and the grace of eternal life.

¹ Methodist – General Board of Discipleship

Gathering at the Lord's Table

□ Come, share the Lord

PCUSA 510

God be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise...

Gracious God, we praise your holy name, giving thanks with our lips and our lives...

...Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise...

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!

Faithful God, we offer you our praise and thanks as we return to you these holy gifts of bread and wine...

...We celebrate with great joy the resurrection of Jesus, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation as we affirm the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

God of grace and power, you invite us to share in mysteries that are beyond our understanding...

...loving and caring in the world.

In Christ, with Christ, through Christ – by the power of the Holy Spirit – all glory is yours, now and forever and so we sing...

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen! Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!

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 after Communion

□ *Our Father in heaven* (*The Lord's Prayer – no repeats*) 469

Blessing

□ *Go now in peace* 622