

Welcome/Announcements/Land Acknowledgement **Kittie Ure**

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 that we gather with gratitude on traditional and unceded Coast Salish Territory of Lkwungen people. We pray that past and present injustices can be reconciled as we commit ourselves again to just and respectful relationships.

□ *Don't be afraid (repeat)*

Call to Worship

We come here from our separate homes and families.

We come here to be your family, O Maker of all.

We come together in as the body of Christ.

We come to worship you, Holy One, in spirit and truth.

□ *We are marching / Siyahamba*

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□ Gathering Prayer / the Lord's Prayer / Words of Hope

God of abundant life, we rejoice in your love which has filled creation from the beginning, and which calls us before you as a thankful people. We praise you for Jesus Christ in whom you open for us a new and living way into your presence. Grant your gathered people, pure hearts and constant wills to worship you, filled with the Holy Spirit.

God of reconciliation, we remember your love, shown to us in Jesus, which gives us confidence to confess our sin, before you and before one another.

We have turned away from you in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have failed to do. We have sinned in ignorance, we have sinned in weakness, and we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

God of gracious mercy, we celebrate your generosity, your power, and your love which encourages us to beg forgiveness, to submit to correction, and to seek your direction for our lives. We join our voices now in the prayer that 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***

What God has made clean, let no one profane. When we believe in Jesus Christ, God gives us the gift of repentance that leads to life. We are forgiven and made new.

□ Prayer for Understanding **Heather Anderson**

Your word, O God, is our source of hope and truth in a world filled with deception. Fill us with your Spirit as we listen to your word read and interpreted, so that it satisfies our thirst for wisdom and truth. Amen

Scripture **Acts 11:1-18** [NT 130]

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "*Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?*"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "*I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'*"

But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'

This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "*Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.*"

Revelation 21:1-6 [NT 259]

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, *"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."*

And the one who was seated on the throne said, *"See, I am making all things new."*

Also he said, *"Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Then he said to me, *"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."*

John 13:31-35 [NT 108]

When he had gone out, Jesus said, *"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'*

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Message

□ Deep in our hearts

□ Offering and Prayer

The season of Easter is unfolding while the gifts of spring also remind us of God's generosity in Christ and in creation. May the gifts we offer show our gratitude for God's goodness and the hope for new life we have in Jesus.

□ Praise God from whom all blessings flow

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Generous God, we praise you for your gift of life renewed through Christ's love, and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Bless the gifts we bring and make them signs of hope and renewal in the world we serve in Jesus' name. Amen

□ Pastoral Prayers

Alpha and Omega, Creator of a new heaven and a new earth, we pour out our thanks to you, just as you pour out for us the water of abundant life. We know that you are present among us, that you wipe the tears from our eyes and nourish new growth in our sometimes-barren lives.

Your healing spirit falls upon us like gentle showers on the garden. We give thanks for your transforming love that changes the way we see and feel and think. We give thanks for the revelation of Jesus Christ that shows us the way you would have us be in the world. We give thanks for your commandment of love that directs us in our discipleship each moment of every day.

As your disciples, O God, we seek to serve you by loving one another. We pray that you will help us fulfill your commandment. As your disciples, O God, we are called to pray for one another in a spirit of openness.

We pray for those who are unwell – those recovering from illness or surgery – those anticipating treatment – and those who know that they will not get better.

We pray for those who tend the sick – those who cook and clean – fetch and carry – all who persist in pray.

We pray for the downhearted – all who are filled with uncertainty or insecurity – troubled by work or family concerns – weighed down by depression or despair.

We pray for those concerns closest to our own hearts, knowing that you cherish each one of us and that you hear our prayers...

Alpha and Omega, Creator of a new heaven and a new earth, we lift our prayers to you by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

□ To show by touch and word

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Blessing

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we go forth into the world, to fulfill our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ. Go in peace – love and care for one another in Christ's name – the blessing of Christ Jesus, the one who traded good for evil and love for hate, be upon you. May Christ's mercy uphold us, his compassion guide us, and his strength sustain us now and always. Amen

□ Go now in peace

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