

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement April Watt

**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.**

Celebrations / Joys and Concerns *God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.  
God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on you.*

*☐ Come, Holy Spirit (Gaither)*

Call to Worship

We come seeking to lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

**We come in the hope of humility and gentleness  
– with patience, bearing one another in love.**

We come making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**We come knowing there is one body and one Spirit.**

We are called to be here by the one Lord, joined in one faith.

**We are united in one baptism by God – Creator of all  
– who is above all and through all and in all.**

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

*☐ Open our eyes, Lord*

*445*

† Gathering Prayer and Words of Hope

God of majesty and mercy, in creation you gave us all we need to live and cherish. You came to us in Jesus to show us the face of your love. You walk into our lives to meet us in the midst of joy and pain. Through the Holy Spirit, you speak words of wisdom to help us find our way. God in our midst, speak to us today in this time of worship. Speak the words we need to hear so that we know you still walk with us.

Loving God, you send us into the world as ambassadors of your love and peace, yet too often we create discord and division. We serve our own interests first, ignoring those in need. We value our understanding of the world you love and fail to listen to the stories

of others. Forgive us for such self-centredness. Help us to be more faithful disciples of Jesus, eager to serve, willing to listen, glad to be of service in his name. Amen

In Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away and everything has become new! Thanks be to God that by divine mercy, we can all make a new start!

□ *Colourful Creator, God of mystery*

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Pride Puppy (Robin Stevenson and Julie McLaughlin) – picture book

† Prayer for Understanding **Marianne Mortimer**

**God of wisdom, as we listen to scripture read and interpreted, send your Spirit so that we may hear with new understanding and respond in faithfulness. Amen**

Scripture

**Genesis 2:25 and 3:8-11** [OT 2]

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

**Colossians 3:1-4 and 12-17** [NT 201]

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your[a] life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord<sup>[a]</sup> has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ<sup>[b]</sup> rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ<sup>[c]</sup> dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.<sup>[d]</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Message    *How to look good naked – Presbyterian*

*Describe TV show...*

- Person with poor body image
- Faces up to and names their “issues”
- Confronted with reality and perception check (line-up)
- Honest feedback – billboard photo – public input
- Foundation garments
- Wardrobe assessment
- Grooming and shopping
- Naked photo shoot and runway show
- Loving yourself and how you look to others

*Genesis*

- The man and woman were naked and unashamed
- Just a few verses later they are hiding, and God wonders who told them they were naked – who told them to be ashamed of being naked – how did their “body image” become distorted?

*Colossians*

- We hear about being a new creation in Christ both as individuals and as the church
- When Christ who is our life is revealed then we are also revealed in glory – exposed for who we truly are
- Because we are created of God, we have a strong foundation and need to dress appropriately – wearing compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and above all love
- We are called to be “one body” and to be thankful

*The Body of Christ – the Church*

*– could do with a make-over session as on “How to Look Good Naked”*

- We are generally unhappy with ourselves (the church) – comparing ourselves to others / critiquing our flaws / poor “body image”
- We need to strip down and confront ourselves in the mirror – to “see face to face” – to address the naked truth of who we are and see the beauty in that
  - ✓ Face and name issues
  - ✓ Confront reality with a perception check and honest feedback
  - ✓ Pay attention to the foundation

- ✓ Wardrobe assessment
- ✓ Grooming and shopping
- ✓ Showing ourselves off – naked photo and runway show
- ✓ Loving ourselves and how we look to others

*God created us and placed us in the world naked and unashamed. We are called to be a new creation in Christ – “revealed in glory” as a thankful community of faith.*

*The body of Christ – the church – like every “body” here – is not perfect. **But** – just as each of your bodies is beautiful and will look all the more beautiful as you love and care for them – **so to** the body of Christ – the church.*

*At the end of the show the person is shown their naked photo and asked, “Do you look good naked?” They are always amazed and overjoyed to say, “Yes!”*

*My prayer is that we – the church – the body of Christ – can look at ourselves naked and unashamed and claim that we look good as God intends. **Amen***

*□ O for a world where everyone*

*730*

#### † Offering Invitation

Through our gifts to God, we participate in God’s goodness at work in the world. Take heart! Whatever you give, give with confidence that God will use our gifts for the good purposes of the Gospel.

*□ Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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#### † Offering Prayer

**Generous God, you have blessed our lives with gifts, both visible and invisible. We present our offerings in gratitude, to fulfil your desire for the world. Bless all that we give to make a difference in the lives of others, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen**

#### An Affirmation of Faith: *The Apostles Creed*

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**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**

## Gathering at the Lord's Table

We have heard about God, who loved confusion into order and gave each creature a divine image, making the world.

We have heard about Jesus, a poor man whose banquet feeds the world, a healer whose wounds give life, a teacher whose wisdom traces love's order in the world, finding the divine in each of us.

We have heard how Jesus died, and how, for those who loved him, he rose again. We have heard about the Holy Spirit, who breaks the bonds of race and class, of gender and creed, to show God's love for everyone.

And we have heard that love makes all things new. We come to this table asking for the bread of such blessings.

These miracles begin with simple human gestures, bits of bread in a basket, tongues that talk, souls that yearn. And so we bring bread and wine, prayers and our own yearning, that the miraculous may begin in us today.

*□ Here, O my Lord, I see thee (verses 1-3)*

*543 remain seated*

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...**

Holy One we praise your name, giving thanks to you with our lips and our lives...

For the power and mystery of your Word by which you created us and called us to yourself, we give you thanks.

For the power and mystery of your Word by which you took flesh and lived among us through your Son, Jesus Christ, we give you thanks.

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. Remembering that on the night of his arrest Jesus sat down to eat with friends. During the meal, he took the bread, said a prayer, broke it and shared it with everyone at the table, saying:

*"This is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me."*

At the end of the meal, he took a cup of wine and raised it, saying:

*"This is God's new covenant, made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."*

We ponder, O God, the mystery of Jesus' promise that in this meal we are joined to you and to one another as a holy people. We follow Jesus' example, as we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things of the world, which Christ makes special.

We celebrate with great joy the resurrection, Christ's presence with us in this feast, and the 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 ...in simple trust we seek the transforming power of your Spirit us and upon this bread and wine. By the miracle of your grace may they be for us your body – vibrant with your life, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you – bone of your bone – flesh of your flesh, ...loving and caring in the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty God, for ever and ever 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.*

The one who breathed on the first disciples is now present to us in this bread.

The one whose Spirit stirred the Church at Pentecost now revives us in this cup.

The bread of life – the cup of grace – we remember and share with thanksgiving these gifts in which God comes to us so that we may come to God.

□ *Here, O my Lord, I see thee* (verses 4-5)

543 *remain seated*

#### † Prayer after Communion

Loving God, we thank you for knowing when we are hungry – even before we know it ourselves. We thank you for the mystery of being joined with Christ in this meal as a community of faith. Grant us the humility and enthusiasm to return again and again to feast at your table so that we may be nourished for the journey.

You call us into loving relationships to form caring communities, to provide hospitality to the stranger and to proclaim justice for those who have no voice. We pray that we may have the wisdom to support and encourage others who find the way difficult. Open our minds and hearts that we may be present to others. Move us beyond our fears as we reach out with words and acts of kindness. Lift us from the busyness of life that we may be attentive to the needs of others. Nurture the unique gifts in each of us that we may serve you with integrity and joy.

We pray for peace in our world, especially in those places where there is violence in the name of religion. We pray for the wise stewardship of creation. May we be good citizens of your reign, promoting justice for all. Bless your people that they may provide faithful witness and be your light in the world.

Hear our prayers for those who are ill, those who are home-bound, those who are dying and those who grieve...

We pray for family and loved ones near and far...

We pray for our personal needs and intentions...

O God hear our prayers. We look to you for the guidance and discernment we need each day.

Help us to trust in the power of your Holy Spirit so that you may re-shape us and re-form us. Grant us sensitive spirits, attentive minds and receptive hearts that we may care for one another – Christ's hands and feet in the world. We pray together, singing...

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

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#### Blessing

We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Let us be the church unashamed and as we open our hearts, may we rejoice

that God is with us – that Jesus walks beside us on the journey – that the Spirit guides us in a good way. Amen

*□ Go now in peace*

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