

# Christ Church Gabriola

## A Collaborative Anglican – United Church Open to All

*We gather on the ancestral lands the Snuneymuxw people.*



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent March 31, 2019

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*Musician Marilyn Smith*

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\* Please stand if you are able

**VU** is Voices United Hymn Book

**Bold print in bulletin – congregation**

**MV** is More Voices Hymn Book

## **We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence**

### ***All Are Welcome To Worship Together***

We welcome you, whoever and wherever you are, to join us on a journey. We strive to accept each other as we are and welcome the ministry and participation of all persons regardless of age, gender identity, health, race, sexual orientation, differing abilities, religious or ethnic background or economic circumstance.

We hope that in all that we do, in our worship and community life, that the Creator's unconditional love is experienced.

We do this trusting The Creator is with us on the journey.

### **Prelude:**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

One: The light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

### **\*Call to Worship:**

Bruce Prewer, edited

One: God is too immense for the universe to contain, yet is closer to us than anything or anyone else.

**All: God is nearer than our heart beat, closer than thoughts and feelings.**

One: God is pure perfection, perfect beauty, yet embraces us with our imperfections. **All: God is our light and salvation, joy of the heart's desiring.**

### **\*Collect:**

Melinda Mitchell

**Author of Life, inspire in us to write a new page, a new chapter on healing and forgiveness. Inspire us to leave the tropes of the world behind by ceasing violence, and instead seek ways of reparation and restoration. Sing into our hearts the songs of praise and thanksgiving. Write into our bodies the actions of love and justice. Plot in us the course to follow the way of Christ in all we say, do, think, feel, and believe. Create in us a new, whole story, of love and life everlasting. Amen.**

### **\*Hymn:**

***Come O Fount of Every Blessing***

**VU #559**

**Call to Confession:** This morning we explore the story we call the Prodigal Son . . . it's a story of a father and two sons; like any good parable, it expresses human truth, both the grit and the grace. Let us approach God with this story.

### **Prayer of Confession:**

One: We know the younger son,

**All: we know the way of rebellion, of expectation, of knowing better than you and demanding our share.**

One: We know what it is to sit in the mud, finally acknowledging there is another way.

**All: Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.**

One: We know the older son,

**All: We know how to be so good that we think you owe us something. It's easy for us to stand in judgment of others and be resentful of good fortune that is not earned.**

One: When we become rigid, help us find the posture of humility.

**All: Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.**

### *Silent Confession*

**Assurance of Grace:** God runs to us like a parent, face beaming, arms open to embrace us. In God's embrace, grace overflows and washes over us, renewing us body and soul. Thanks be to God!

**\*Passing of the Peace:** Christ comes to bring us into right relationship in a ministry of reconciliation. Let us celebrate renewed relationships by passing Christ's peace!

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

*Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.*

**Special Music: Songs Without Words**

Felix Mendelssohn, Op. 19, #1

### **We Listen to the Word**

Reader: By the gift of your Spirit, calm and quiet our souls that we may hear your Word today and be lifted up to walk with you.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen

**Children's Story: Joshua 5:9-12**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 32**

**VU p.759**

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:** (stand or sit as it your custom) One:

God be with you.

**All: And also with you**

One: The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke **All:**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise be to Jesus Christ**

**We Engage the Story**

**Reflection: Receiving God's Blessing**  
*Silent Reflection*

**Open Space:**

- Affirmations of God's Love (by sound cabinet)
- Family Relationships through Sculpture (back right)
- Light a Candle & Pray (on stairs)
- Anointing for Healing (on chancel with minister)

**\*Hymn: What Does the Lord Require of You VU #701**

**We Respond to God's Love**

**\*Affirmation of Faith: Apostle's Creed VU p.918**

**Prayers of the People** (stand or sit as is your custom)

**Lord's Prayer** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom  
come, your will be done, on earth as in  
heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us. Save us from the  
time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now  
and for ever. Amen.

**Foster Child Update**

Jean Rhodes

**Invitation to Offering:** In response to all of the goodness God gives us, let us gather our gifts and present them as an offering to God.

*Lay Assistants please come forward*

**\*Doxology: CP #669**

**Praise God the Source of life and birth,  
God the Word, who came to earth.  
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame. All  
glory, honour to God's name.**

**Praise**

**\*Offering Prayer:**

BAS

**God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

### **We Celebrate Communion**

**\*Invitation to Communion:**

(Iona Abbey Worship Book)

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who haven't been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have stopped trying. Come. This is the table of radical love and inclusion; it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

**\* The Great Thanksgiving**

One: God be with you                   **All: And also with you**  
One: Lift up your hearts           **All: We lift them to God**  
One: Let us give thanks to God most high  
**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

**The Great Thanksgiving:**

God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer made life out of nothing but love, cares for life for no reason but love, guides and protects life for no reason but love.

**God called Mary to dance with Love and bring Love into the world. In love, God calls us, beloved creatures, made in God's own image, to feast with God and with each other, that we may taste and see God's goodness, delight in God's ways of justice and peace, learn to recognize and love our neighbour, receive the healing God offers, and work with gladness and courage for the in-breaking of God's realm on earth.**

With love, our Creator God calls us to this table inviting us to break bread, share the cup, delight in those good gifts of Earth, and be renewed by God's sustaining love.

**Sanctus:**

**MV #203**

**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!**

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Jesus first did.

**To his followers of every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. At his last meal with his friends Jesus called them and us to remember . . .**

One: On the night before he was betrayed, gathered around a table with his friends, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, O God, broke it, and shared it among them, saying: **All: this is my body broken for you and for all. Do this in remembrance of me.** One: After supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them, saying: **All: drink this, all of you, this is the cup of the new covenant, which is poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you do this, remember me.**

Loving God we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Acclamation: MV #204**  
**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Bless these gifts with the presence of the Holy Spirit and bless us who have gathered here out of love for you, and strengthen us by these gifts to serve you in the world and share your love with everyone we meet.

**All: Amen**

One: We break this bread,

**All: Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

One: Let your Church be the wheat, which bears its fruit in dying.

**All: If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

*We have bread, wafers, and gluten free wafers available (please indicate if you would like a wafer or gluten free), as well as the chalice of wine on the left and cups of wine, juice and water on the right.*

**Communion Hymn: I Come With Joy VU #477**

**\*Prayer after Communion:**

BAS

**Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into this world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, in Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.**

### **We Go Into the World**

**\*Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing VU #481**

**\*Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**\*Commissioning: What does the Lord require of us? To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.**

**\*Benediction:** May the mystery of God go with you; may Christ bless your steps; may the Holy Spirit sustain you on your way. Go now, carrying God's blessing. Amen.

**Musical Postlude**

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.

For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer.

In sorrow, in grief, be near, hear our prayer, O God. ~ repeat 3 times

*Please remain seated to reflect on the worship service or leave quietly  
This service is over and our service begins*