

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday, May 24th, 2020
Feast of the Ascension
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of Squamish Nation

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Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.
And again.*

The Gathering of the Community

Leader Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Leader May his grace and peace be with you.

All May he fill our hearts with joy.

Leader Let us pray.

All We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

**All Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.

Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.

Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment, nothing let your praise destroy.

Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord every where in every way!

Contributors: Natalie Sleeth

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The Collect of the Day

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt

God unheld by word or wall: lift us from dullness and cynical contempt; make us ready for your Spirit of transforming power; and turn our hearts to the mending of the world, through Jesus Christ, the name above all names. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying^[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Psalm 47

BAS p.764-765

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

shout to God with a cry of joy.

For the Lord Most High is to be feared;

he is the great king over all the earth.

He subdues the peoples under us,

and the nations under our feet.

He chooses our inheritance for us,

the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout,

the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

sing praises to our king, sing praises.

For God is king of all the earth;

sing praises with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations;

God sits upon his holy throne.

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together

with the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God,

and he is highly exalted.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that,

with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Acclamation: Hallelujah

CP324

sung through 4 times

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

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Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses⁴⁷ of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Leader Let us confess our faith as we say,
All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church
We acknowledge on baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

With joyful hearts let us pause as we pray together saying, **God, hear our prayer.**

Radiant God, as you surrounded Jesus with your strength, wisdom and grace we pray that you will surround us in the same ways.

Open our hearts that we may reflect your love and your peace –

open our minds that we may reflect your wisdom and grace –

open our very being that we may reflect your wondrous spirit.

We offer you our thanks and praise for the many blessings in our lives; for those who nurture and care for us, for those who bring joy into our lives and for those who hold us tenderly in prayer. We are deeply grateful.

Holy God, we live in uncertain times and seek your guidance as we go forward.

Help us to be calm and cautious keeping the needs of the most vulnerable at the forefront of our actions. We pray together saying: **God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are feeling the stress of Covid-19. We pray for those who are challenged physically, emotionally or spiritually. Guide us to reach out in supportive and caring ways. We pray together saying: **God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for The Deanery of Tri-Cities / North Burnaby – The Reverend Eric Mason, Regional Dean and here at St. John the Divine, Squamish- The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr .

We pray for Susan, Eleanor, Lori, Tyler, The Howe Sound Women's Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls, the Elders of Squamish Nation and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

We pray for Heather Bewza and all her mourn her death, may they know your comforting presence. We pray together saying: **God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are filled with fear and are haunted by memories. We pray for those who are lost and lonely, and for those who live each day in pain. Fill them with your healing peace. We pray together saying: **God, hear our prayer.**

Eternal One, grant us the courage, the strength and the voice to be your beacons bringing justice to the oppressed, freedom to the enslaved, and light to those who live in darkness. We pray together saying: **God, hear our prayer.**

Guide us O God in all that we do and in all that we say. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

DARWALL'S 148TH
John Darwall, 1731–1789
Setting by Carlton R. Young



All 1. Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your
Choir 2. The Lord our Sav - ior reigns, the
Choir 3. His king - dom can - not fail, he
All 4. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our



Lord and King a - dore; re - joice, give thanks, and
God of truth and love; when he had purged our
rules o'er earth and heav'n; the keys of death and
Lord the judge shall come and take his ser - vants



sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more: Lift
stains, he took his seat a - bove: Lift
hell are to our Je - sus giv'n: Lift
up to their e - ter - nal home: We



up your heart, lift up your voice! Re -
up your heart, lift up your voice! Re -
up your heart, lift up your voice! Re -
soon shall hear th'arch - an - gel's voice; the



joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
trump of God shall sound, re - joice!

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Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All **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 forever. Amen**

Leader Glory to God
All **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, forever and ever. Amen**

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

St. John the Divine Prayers for May 24th, 2020

The Church

The Deanery of Tri-Cities / North Burnaby – The Reverend Eric Mason,
Regional Dean

St. John the Divine, Squamish- The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

Immediate Prayer Requests

Susan, Eleanor, Lori, Tyler Olfert, The Howe Sound Women’s Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

Heather Bewza

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.

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Reverend Cameron’s Easter Reflection

This letter was published in the Squamish Chief May 7, 2020

You might be thinking that Easter is long past, but for many Christian churches, including St. John the Divine, that little Anglican church behind the London Drugs, Easter is still going strong. For us, Easter is an entire season, lasting 50 days. Does this legitimize the continued consumption of chocolate bunnies and coloured eggs? I’ll leave that up to you.

Easter is the holiest time in our church’s year and a time for celebration. Especially on the first Sunday of Easter, extra guests usually swell our weekly gathering, and we mark the time with special music, food, and decorations.

While we have been uploading weekly services and sermons to YouTube, this year has just not been the same. Easter has ended up looking quite different than what we are used to. I have been grieving this unexpected reality more than I thought I would. I am sure that I am not alone in this, but in the same boat as many of you, who have been grieving your own cancelled, or drastically altered celebrations, holidays, and events.

One of the sources of comfort, encouragement, and strength for me this year has been stories. This year, particularly as I hear the familiar and sacred stories for Easter, I find myself being affected by them in new ways. It has hit me that in most of these Easter stories, the characters are anxious, alone, grieving, and afraid. There seem to be more tears than I remember at Easters past. I see myself in these narratives and am reminded of the validity of my anxiety and grief.

I am also noticing this year in these Easter stories, the transformative effect that a story can have. The characters, alone and afraid, are brought good news — a new story — that shines a light into their darkness, that plants a seed of joy and hope in their hearts.

Stories can be powerful like that.

What are the stories that have been letting you feel how you feel? What are the stories that have planted seeds of joy and hope in your heart? Are you finding them from your online-streaming service of choice, or your spiritual tradition, or your friends, family, and neighbours?

I hope that you are finding those stories that are speaking to you and embracing them. I hope you are sharing those stories. We are in a time for telling stories.

Happy spring, Squamish. Happy Easter.

Rev. Cameron Gutjahr

