

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrew's
and Trinity Memorial United Churches**

**The 7th Sunday of Easter
May 23rd, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Michael Hare

Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman

The Rev. Bill Booth

Song Leader: Deborah Handley & Jerry Johnson

Musician: Jacob Greenan

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

We Gather as God's People

Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation

Land Acknowledgement Bill

As we gather in this place we give thanks for land on which we live, work and play and acknowledge that is the unceded lands of the Stó:lō people. We acknowledge the commitment that they have made since time immemorial caring for the land and the waters. May we learn from them and walk with them to the time when we shall stand reconciled before God.

Lighting of the Rainbow Candle Tim

Lighting this Candle, we remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit is available to all of God's Children. We acknowledge that many people whose sexual and gender identity is not considered the norm of our culture have been denied a place at the table of Grace. Yet the Spirit welcomes them. In humility and love let us do the same.

Lighting the Christ Candle Tim

One: Light Bringing, Fill us with your Spirit.

All: Come to us Holy Spirit.

One: The Light of Christ shining in the world for us.

All: Thanks be to God!

Call to Worship Bill

One: People of God, Come and Worship the Holy One.

All: From our homes, with our hearts open and ready, we come to God in worship.

Hymn "Send Your Holy Spirit" VU 370

*Send your Holy Spirit on your gathered people,
merciful and loving God, hear us, as we pray.*

Prayer of the Invocation **Bill**

Great Spirit, Life giver, Wild One of God, enter our open hearts, Come to this place with power and compassion. Reach out across the distance between us and bind us together as your Holy church. Sail through wire and Wi-Fi of bits and bytes to create a miracle of your presence in our worship. Enter now our tremblings as we sing our praise and love. Amen

Hymn: “Open My Eyes, That I May See” VU 371

*Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Time with Children **Tim**

Hymn: “Spirit of Life” VU 381

*Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold us close; wings set us free;
Spirit of Life, come to us, come to us.*

We invite the children and their leaders into the breakout rooms.

Prayer of Opening of our Hearts

One: Let us bring our opens to our Loving Creator.
Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**All: Holy One: So often we yearn to be closer to You but we wrap ourselves in our worries and pride. Find the cracks in our defenses, find the way into our broken hearts, wash away the layers of this troubled world so that we can be ready to receive your loving presence. Heal us, forgive us and make us whole and alive.
Amen**

Words of Assurance:

One: No matter what barriers we place between us and God's Presence if we leave even the smallest of openings and invite the Spirit to enter then the healing of our whole being can begin. God forgives and heals, and dwells in your deepest self.

All: Enter into our open hearts O Loving God.

We Listen for the Word

Scripture: First Reading

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Gospel

John 17:6-19

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **Michael**

Hymn: “**Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**” VU 375

***R) Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro’ the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.***

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R)*

*You swept thro’ the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro’ your prophets to open their eyes. R)*

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. R)*

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. R)*

We Respond

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession **Bill**

Prayers Shared from the Chat

Lord’s Prayer (to the Tune Kingsford VU 625)

Our Father Mother in heaven high, O Glory to your name.
Your reign of love on high and here with all-of us the same.
Give us this day the bread we need our lives to sustain.
And heal our brokenness as we our neighbours help to heal.

When we know not the path to take, guide us with your light.
O, Save us from the shadow way, even in the darkest night
For all is yours to guide and hold, the glory and the power
From then, to now and evermore, Amen, Amen, Amen

Acknowledging our Gifts for the work of God **Tim**

We give thanks for your financial offerings made through: cash, cheques mailed or dropped off, Pre-Authorized Remittance and online donations, which together with your donations of time and work are used to further God’s mission through the work of the congregations here. We present these gifts as a sign of thanksgiving to God from whom all blessings flow.

Doxology: "For The Gift of Creation" VU 538

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Offertory Prayer **Tim**

Blessed Spirit of God, May these gifts be used to bring about your economy of justice and compassion in the world. May what we give and do and say reflect your vision of a new world for all. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving. - Communion.

Invitation to the Table (Bill)

The table is ready, and we are here. Jesus is our host, welcoming, loving, offering the hospitality of heaven to us. Come. Come, if you have been eating at this table all your life. Come, if you have never eaten here before. The welcoming arms of Christ are around you. Come.

One: The Holy One is here. (Bill)

All: God's Spirit is with us.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to offer thanks and praise.

(Tim)

Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and your Word brought all things into being. Through a burning bush, you spoke to your prophets and your people. With glowing coals you touched their lips, that they might speak your word of truth and justice. By fire and your Spirit, you have guided us through the wilderness. We give you thanks and praise, O God of wind and word, power and peace.

(Michael)

Lover of all nations, although we have so often betrayed your promise, you have never left us nor forsaken us. You sent us Jesus, your Gift of Grace, our Light and Flame. You poured out your Spirit upon us, to create, renew, inspire, that all might be made whole. We bless you, for your Spirit wraps us in your presence, drawing us closer in community. And so it is that on this feast of Pentecost, we give you praise and thanks for your many gifts, joining with all your people that as one body we may proclaim your praise:

Sanctus: MV 203

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 heaven, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who come and bears your name always!

(Bill)

We remember the vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table: he shared food with followers and friends, with saints and sinners, with crowds of thousands on the hillside, and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
he passed it among them, saying:**

“Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us. In word and deed, Jesus lives
among us.**

(Michael)

**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 to you
that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:**

Memorial 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!

(Tim)

**Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this offering of your church,
that we who eat and drink at Christ’s table
may share in his life.**

**Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth,
and make it your new creation.**

**Gather your church together
from the ends of the earth
into your realm where peace and justice are revealed—
that we, with all your people,
of every language, race, and nation,
may share the banquet you have promised.**

(Bill)

Praise be to God, the Source of love!

Praise be to Christ, Love incarnate!

Praise be to the Spirit, Love’s power!

Praise be to God! Amen.

The bread of tomorrow.

(the Bread is broken Michael)

All: Amen

The cup of new life.

(the Cup is filled from the jug Michael)

All: Amen

Great Amen: MV 205

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

Amen, amen, Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!

Sharing of the Cup and the Bread

You are invited to partake in your bread and cup.

Prayer after Communion (Tim)

**For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted,
for the life we have received, we thank you God.**

Grant that what we have done and have been given here,
may so put its mark on us, that it may remain always in our hearts.
Grant that we may grow
in Christian love and understanding,
and that ours may be lives of faithful action,
in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn: "Shout For Joy" VU 482

*Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;
heaven's own fare has fed the last and least;
Christ's own peace is shared again on earth;
God the spirit fills us with new worth.*

*No more doubting, no more senseless dread:
god's good self has graced our wine and bread;
all the wonder heaven has kept in store
now is ours to keep for evermore.*

*Celebrate with saints who dine on high,
witnesses that love can never die.
'Hallelujah!' – thus their voices ring.
|Nothing less in gratitude we bring.*

*Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,
praise the Spirit, - three yet ever one;
praise the God whose food and friends avow
heaven start here! The kingdom beckons now!*

Commissioning and Benediction Michael

Sung Response: Sing Amen (VU 431)
Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.
Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Sing amen: Amen, amen, amen, amen
Amen we praise your name, O God.

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