

## Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace, Sunday June 13th

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Coast Salish peoples have walked gently on the territories where we now live, work, worship and play. We seek a new relationship with the Scia'new and other First Nations, based in honour and respect, and thank them for their hospitality.

O God, who called all life into being,  
**The earth, sea and sky are yours.**  
 Your presence is all around us,  
**Every atom is full of your energy.**  
 Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,  
**With her we yearn for justice to be done,**  
 For creation to be freed from bondage,  
**For the hungry to be fed,**  
 For the captives to be released,  
**For your kingdom of peace to come on earth.**

***Kid's Time***

*David & the Kids*

***Hymn CP262 Come Ye Thankful People***

*Jennifer*

***The Word of God***

*Russ*

*The Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament) contains both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel. These two books tell the story of three characters – Samuel, Saul and David. Samuel, a leader in Israel before there was a monarchy, was instrumental in selecting and naming Saul as Israel's first king. The two enjoyed a strong bond of friendship but Saul appears to have allowed the role of king to undermine his relationship to God. In this story, Samuel, grieving at what Saul has become, is commissioned by God to find a replacement for King Saul. His search takes him to the home of Jesse and his sons and results in Israel's most successful king.*

*A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, chapter 15*

Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse

to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Word of God, Word of Life.

### ***Psalm 20***

*Rachel*

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble, the Name of the God of Jacob defend you; Send you help from his holy place and strengthen you out of Zion;

Remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice; Grant you your heart's desire and prosper all your plans.

We will shout for joy at your victory and triumph in the name of our God; may the Lord grant all your requests.

Now I know that the Lord gives victory to his anointed; he will answer him out of his holy heaven, with the victorious strength of his right hand. Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.

They collapse and fall down, but we will arise and stand upright. O Lord, give victory to the king and answer us when we call.

*Paul wrote a number of letters to the ex-pagan Christ-communities in Corinth. Like much of the early church Paul believed that a time was coming, and coming soon when a new order (the Kingdom of God) would be established on earth. At that time a returning Christ would sit in judgement and all would have to give an account of their conduct, “whether good or evil”. For those who are “in Christ” they need have no fears in the coming parousia, the time when Christ returns. They can face Christ’s return with confidence. A reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, chapter 5.*

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Word of God, Word of Life.

***Gospel***

*Wally*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Mark 4:26-34

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

Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.’

He also said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.’

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of Christ

***Reflecting on Justice, Peace and Residential Schools*** *Wally*

***Prayer of confession*** *Wally*

O God, you are always true to us in love and we are left wanting to say sorry  
for our faithlessness to you and to one another  
for our forgetting of the poor and the broken,  
for our failure to cherish creation.  
Give us life, O God, to change and enable us to change, that we may live.

***Affirmation of faith*** *Wally*

It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost  
**This is true: for God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him shall not die, but have everlasting life.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction.  
**This is true: I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay for ever;  
**This is true: for to us a child is born, to us a son is given, in whom authority will rest, and whose name will be Prince of Peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil that seek to rule the world;  
**This is true: to me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything;  
**This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all people, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, and your old folk shall dream dreams.**

It is not true that our dreams of liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and its history;

**This is true: the hour comes, and it is now,  
that true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

***Prayers of concern and/or celebration***

*Ruth*

***Silent Personal Reflection***

*with video extracts from the 2015 peals of St. Mary the Virgin bell*

*All*

***Hymn CP 259 For the Fruit of all Creation***

*Shirley*

***Announcements***

- \* Wardens
- \* others in the congregation
- \* clergy

***Hymn CP 502 You are Salt for the Earth***

*Rachel*

***Closing***

*Wally*

God's blessing on you who are poor,

**Yours is the Kingdom of God.**

God's blessing on you who mourn,

**You shall be comforted.**

God's blessing on you who hunger for justice,

**You shall be satisfied.**

God's blessing on you who make peace,

**You shall be called Children of God.**

God's blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right,

**Yours is the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen**

***Dismissal***

Be at peace, and reach inward and outward to love and serve the Lord.

***Vestry Meeting***