

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 15, 2021**

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship**

**Today's Leadership includes**

Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth

Presiding: The Rev. Michael Hare

The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Musician: Donna Poncelet & Christine Schaufert

Song Leader: Deborah Handley & Jerry Johnson

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright &

Logan Schlosser

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

**We Gather as God's People**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement Tracy**

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 all stand reconciled before God.

**Lighting of the Rainbow Candle Tracy**

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 Tracy**

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world.

**May its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.**

**Call to Worship Tracy**

Praise the Lord!

**We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart, in the company of these congregations.**

Great are the works of the Lord!

**The Lord's works are full of honour and majesty; God's righteousness endures forever.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful!

**The Lord is mindful of the covenants made amongst the people; the transitions of needed of any community, family, or nation.**

The works of the Lord's hands are faithful, just and trustworthy!

**They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Holy and awesome is the name of the Lord!

**The love of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; the praise of God endures forever.**

Come, worship the Lord!

## Prayer of the Day **Michael**

Great and loving God, in the beauty of this summer day, may we see your creating spirit inviting us to share the goodness of life. You have given us the gift of Sabbath rest and ask us to notice your goodness all around us, to share in the celebration of your word creating and recreating with each story and in each prayer. Today may we meet you in our shared wisdom and longing for understanding that leads us in the Way of Christ. Keep us from the deluge of distractions that lead us on a wild good chase when we come seeking you. We ask you, God, to help revive our souls each day, especially today, through you. Amen.

## Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living" VU 242

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God our creator triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished  
As forward we travel from light into light.*

*By law God enforces, the stars in their courses  
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"*

## Children's Time: **Tracy**

### Hymn: "I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus" MV 188

*I thank you, thank you, Jesus, (3x)  
in my heart.  
(2 times)*

*I can't live without you, yes,  
I can't live without you,  
I can't live without you  
in my heart.  
(2 times)*

*I love you, love you, Jesus, (3x)  
in my heart.  
(2 times)*

## Call to Confession **Michael**

Part of our worship together is acknowledging that we sin and fall short in the glory of God. Let us open ourselves up to God's mercy and grace. Let us join together in our prayer of confession:

## Prayer of Confession **Michael**

God, we are your people, yet, too often, we in the Christian faith have not witnessed to the grace you share with us. We have judged others in your name because we did not care for them. We found excuses to reject those who were not like by declaring wrongly they were not like you. God, forgive us and open our hearts to your grace so that may love others as you love all of us. Forgive us for complicating life and open our hearts to your many pleasures and blessings. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon **Michael**

Take comfort in the assurance that whoever we are, wherever we are, God's steadfast love accepts, forgives, and redeems us.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## We Listen for the Word of God

### Scripture Reading:

**1 Kings 2: 10 – 12; 3:3 – 14**

<sup>10</sup>Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. <sup>11</sup>The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

<sup>12</sup>So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

<sup>3</sup>Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. <sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. <sup>14</sup>If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

## **John 6:51-58**

<sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." <sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I live in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon: "In Times of Transition" Bill**

### **Hymn: "Like a Healing Stream" MV 144**

*Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,*

*God is trickling through our lives as in a dream  
unfolding, promising revival and rebirth... like a healing stream.*

*Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,*

*God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new  
creation, yearning for an end to want and need...like a gentle rain.*

*Like a river strong with a restless current,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,*

*God is carving out a channel in a new  
direction, calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.*

*Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,*

*God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:  
God will always challenge and provide!*

*Like a mighty sea,  
like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain,  
like a healing stream.*

## **We Respond to God**

### **Prayer Introit "Lord Listen to your Children Praying" VU 400**

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love send us power, send us grace!*

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession **Tim**

### Prayers from the Chat **Tim**

Lord's Prayer(*said*) (VU 916 bottom: paraphrase)

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo  
through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

(Jim Cotter)

### Acknowledging our Gifts for the work of God **Bill**

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

### Doxology: "When We Are Living" VU 581 Vs.2

*Through all our living, we our fruits must give.  
Good works of service are for offering.  
When we are giving, or when receiving,  
We belong to God, we belong to God.*

### Offertory Prayer

**We rejoice with thanksgiving for all that we have received.  
Multiply these gifts that we give  
so that the world may more deeply know  
fullness of life in you. Amen**

## Hymn: "I See a New Heaven" VU 713

**Chorus) I see a new heaven.  
I see a new earth  
as the old one will pass away,  
where the fountain of life flows and without price goes  
to all people who abide in the land.**

*There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,  
yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be. **Chorus)***

*There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,  
body and soul, struggling but whole like flowers after the rain. **Chorus)***

*There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.  
There where the night, bearing new light, reveals the promise of love.  
**Chorus)***

*There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.  
Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land. **Chorus)***

## Liturgy of Thanks and Blessing

### **Tim:**

Siblings in Christ, God is always inviting us into deeper mystery, greater understanding, fuller relationship. All of us are here because we have said "yes" to that invitation. Whether new or old members of this community, our histories and interests, passions and gifts have enriched and been enriched by each other's presence.

Some among us hear in this invitation a call to ordered ministry, and like the ministry of all believers, this call is tested in relationship with congregants, with colleagues, and with God.

This relationship is like a dance: sometimes we lead, sometimes we follow. Sometimes we step forward, sometimes we step back.

For our own reasons, first Tracy and then I needed to step back for a while so that we might return refreshed. We asked Kathy Davies, our Regional Minister, to find us that space to breathe and to grow, and to find us someone with the gifts to serve.

Michael, you stepped forward. Your skills and your character met our congregations' needs and you said yes to God's invitation, putting our needs first and trusting that the paperwork for your appointment would follow later.

**Aldergrove Representative:** To Aldergrove United Church you were a steady presence who led us with confidence.

**Gladwin Heights / St. Andrew's Representative:** To Gladwin Heights and St. Andrew's you were a thoughtful leader and a spirit-filled presence. Your breadth of knowledge enriched our faith.

**Cluster Representative:** In Cluster meetings and Cluster worship we appreciated your insight and your humour in stressful situations. As members of the Pacific Mountain Region, we give thanks for Regional support in bringing you to us, and we thank you for answering the Region's call to serve. We were honoured by your diligence and your collegial spirit.

## **Michael's Response:**

**Prayer:** Creator God, Holy One,  
Great Spirit of Mystery and Love, God of Covenant,  
We thank you for the moments we have shared with Michael  
in worship, in learning, in play,  
in laughter, in tears, in prayer, and in service.  
We pray that Michael will be aware of your guidance,  
into whatever adventures you next invite him.  
We pray that your Spirit continue to influence  
our congregations and our Cluster.  
Be with us in our time of celebration.  
Bless the insights we have received by your grace  
during this mutual covenant, now ending.  
We pray for wisdom, healing, and abundant new life.  
May we move forward confidently  
with renewed energy and vision;  
in Christ we pray. Amen.

*- Celebrate God's Presence, p. 703. Adapted.*

## **Benediction Michael**

### **MV Sent out in Jesus Name**

*Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now to  
Make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.  
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain  
Into a world of love, of justice and of peace. The task is ours to do,  
To set it really free. O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.*

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