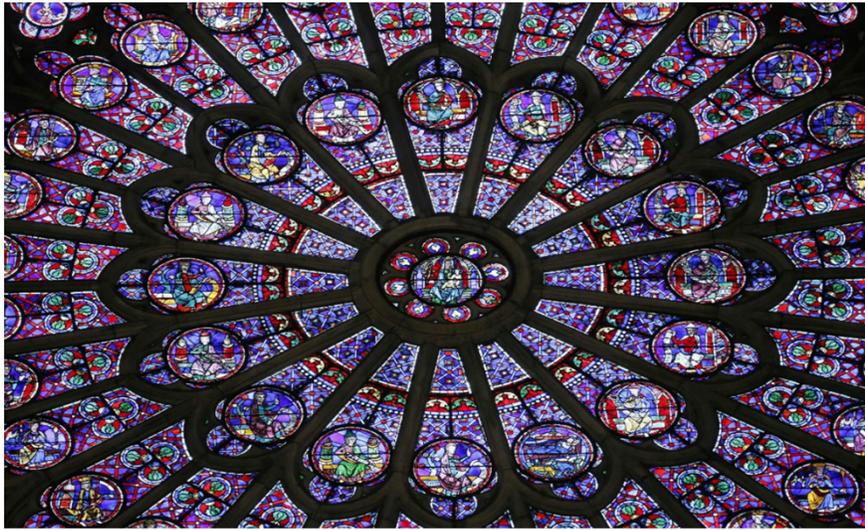




**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 22, 2021**  
**10 am Service**



**Presider:** Rev Sharon Smith

**Music:** Rob Gloor  
Melanie Hackett,  
Gordon Lee, Vivian  
McGie, Ginger Shaw,  
Alison Watt

**Coffee Group:** Penny Zuk,  
Julia Hadrill & Roslyn  
Jackson

**Greeters:** Marion Porter &  
Gillian Holland

**Altar Guild:** Nancy Sunderland

**Readers:** Roslyn Jackson &  
Vivian McGie

**Intercessor:** Linda Robertson

**Livestream:** Armin

## **Gathering of the Community** *(By Tim Graves)*

Presider: We gather on the unceded  
land of the Coast Salish peoples.  
These lands and waters, the  
creatures and plants have cared for  
and been cared for by Squamish and  
Tsleil-Watuth people from time  
immemorial. We commit ourselves  
to seek just and right relationship  
with them.

Presider: Open our minds.

**All: May they be fertile soil for  
your word and ways.**

Presider: Open our hearts.

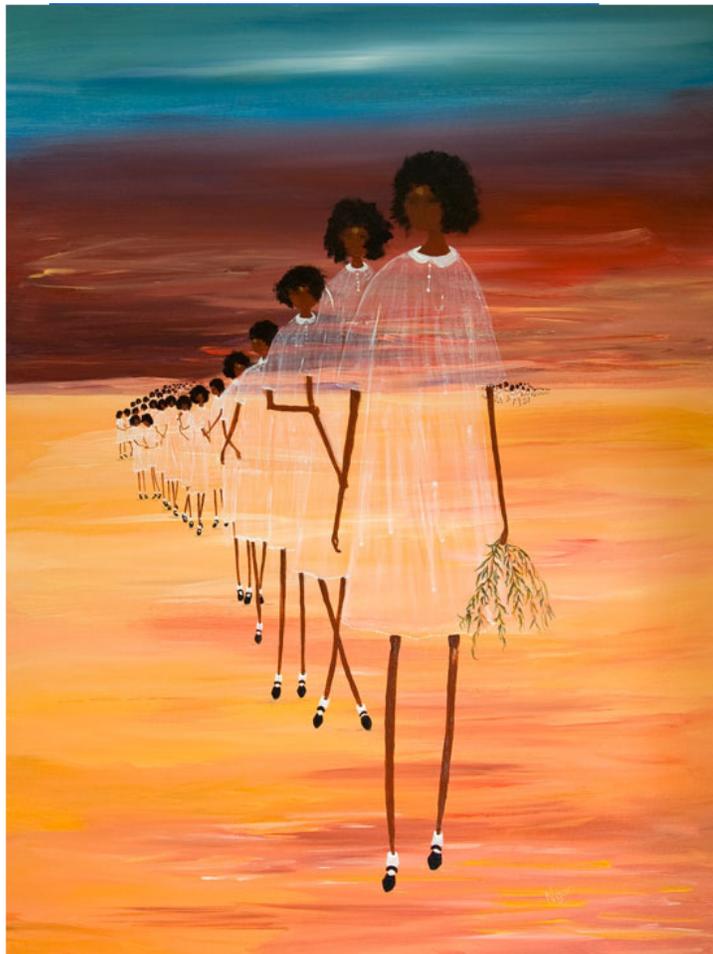
**All: May they be filled with  
love of neighbor  
and a passion for justice.**

Presider:

Open our hands.

**All:**

**That we use them to build  
a world of  
compassion and hope.  
Amen**



*Artist: Nyree (Ngari) Reynolds*

## **Gathering Hymn: Today I awake**

Today I awake and God is before me.  
At night, as I dreamt, he summoned the day;  
For God never sleeps but patterns the morning  
with slithers of gold or glory in grey.

Today I arise and Christ is beside me.  
He walked through the dark to scatter new light  
Yes, Christ is alive, and beckons his people  
to hope and to heal, resist and invite.

Today I affirm the Spirit within me  
at worship and work, in struggle and rest.  
The Spirit inspires all life which is changing  
from fearing to faith, from broken to blest.

Today I enjoy the Trinity round me,  
above and beneath, before and behind;  
The Maker, the Son, the Spirit together  
they called me to life and call me their friend.

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**Gloria:**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **Prayer of the Day:**

Priest: Unsettling God,

**All: refusing our religion of sacrifice and power: find us in our wandering, speak to us the word of life, liberate our violent hearts and let us stay with you; through Jesus the Christ, the holy one of God. Amen**



*Artist: Escobar Henry*

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

### **First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By liberating Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD,

choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight.

He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All:        Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 34: 15-22** (*Paraphrase by Nan Merrill*)  
(*The People are led by Vivian McGie*)

Presider: The Beloved is patient,  
**People: ever-waiting for us to cry  
out  
and embrace Love's way**

Presider: How often the Beloved  
weeps with compassion,  
**People: over those who are crushed  
in spirit.**

Presider: Though we are beset with  
many fears  
that cause illness and  
troubles,  
**People: the Beloved is ever ready  
to comfort us in our  
sorrows,**

Presider: To strengthen us on our  
soul's journey to wholeness.  
**All: The Beloved renews the life  
of all who surrender to  
Love. Amen**

**Second Reading: An excerpt from  
Uncommon Gratitude:  
Alleluia for All That Is** *by*  
*Joan Chittister and Rowan Williams*

Faith in what we cannot control, do not see, cannot understand destroys the idol that is ourselves. It is only that deep down belief that we are not the 'be all and end all' of the universe that can save us from ourselves. It is the awareness of being part of something vast and intelligent and well intentioned that gives purpose to life, that leads us to seek beyond the horizon of our smallest hope that tomorrow, warped as we may be today, we can all be better.

Faith is one long hallelujah sung into a dark night, the only end at which is another challenging dawn.

Unlike answers that presume the static nature of God and the spiritual life, doubt stretches us beyond ourselves to the guidance of God whose face is not always in books. Doubt is what leads us open to truth, wherever it is, however difficult it may be to accept.

Doubt requires us to reconfirm everything we have ever been made to believe is unassailable. Without doubt, life would simply be a series of packaged assumptions, none of them tested, none of them sure, and all of them belonging not to us, but to someone else's truth we have made our own.

The problem with accepting truth as it comes to us rather than truth as we discerned for ourselves is that it's not worth dying for – and we don't. It becomes a patina of ideas inside which we live our lives without passion, without care.

This kind of faith happens around us but not in us – we go through the motions. The first crack in the edifice and we're gone. The first chink on the wall of the Castle and we're off to less demanding fields.

Doubt, on the other hand, is the mother of conviction. Once we have pursued our doubts to the dust, we forge a stronger, not a weaker, belief system. These truths are true, we know, because they are now true for us rather than simply for someone else. To suppress doubt, then, to discourage thinking, to try to stop a person from questioning the unquestionable is simply to make them more and more susceptible to the cynical, more accepting of naive belief. It is doubt that is the beginning of real faith.

The only real corrective for passive disbelief is passionate doubt. Our institutions are filled with people who never question whether or not the government and the Constitution are of a piece, whether our churches and the gospel are compatible. So we produce unpatriotic patriots and corporate believers, people more committed to the system than they are to following Jesus. We produce them at an alarming rate.

Life is doubt, and faith without doubt is nothing but death ... But in this case it is not the body that is dead, it is the mind, it is the soul.

**Reader:** Let us hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All:**       **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
His the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood.  
Jesus, out of every nation,  
Has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us;  
Faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?

## **Gospel Reading: John 6:56-69**

*Jesus' "hard sayings" offend some of his followers who return to their old lives. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said,] "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 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." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Presider:               The Gospel of Christ.

**People:                Praise to you, Lord  
                              Jesus Christ.**

**Gospel Hymn** (*continued*)

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Hear the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.

:

## Homily – Rev Sharon Smith

*Reflective silence follows*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Presider: Moses said,

**All:       Hear, O Israel, the Lord  
              our God,  
              the Lord is one.**

Presider: And Jesus affirmed



*Artist: Nyree (Ngari) Reynolds*

**All: Love the Lord your God with  
all your heart, with all your  
soul, with all your mind,  
And with all your strength.  
This is the first and the great  
commandment, the second is like  
it: Love your neighbor as  
yourself. There is no  
commandment greater  
than these.**

**All: Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Confession**

*(Adapted from the Book of Alternative  
Service)*

Presider: Let us in silence remember our  
own faults and failings.

*Reflective silence follows.*



Confession:

Presider: In the community of Christ's  
Church and in the presence of all  
God's people:

**All: We confess to God that we have  
sinned in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved God, cared for  
God's world, or respected God's  
people as we should. We own our  
responsibility and pray for God's  
pardon.**

Presider: May God forgive us, Christ befriend  
us, and the Spirit renew and change  
our lives. Amen.

### **The Passing of the Peace**

*(Iona Community Worship Book, 2017)*

Presider: Friends not an easy peace,  
not a conditional peace,  
not a half-hearted peace,  
But the peace of the Risen Christ  
be always with you.

**People: And also with you**

*The community, standing at our seats,  
greet one another saying or gesturing:  
'Peace be with you'.*

## **The Preparation of the Table: I Am the Bread**

I am the bread, the bread of life;  
who comes to me will never hunger.  
I am the bread, the bread of heaven;  
who feeds on me, will never die.

And as you eat, remember me –  
my body broken on the tree:  
my life was given to set you free.  
and I'm alive for evermore.

I am the vine, the living vine:  
apart from me you can do nothing.  
I am the vine, the real vine;  
abide in me and I in you.

And as you drink, remember me –  
my blood was shed upon the tree;  
my life was given to set you free,  
and I'm alive for evermore.

So eat this bread, and drink this wine,  
and as you do, receive this life of mine,  
All that I am, I give to you,  
That you may live for evermore.



*Artist: Hulis Mavruk*

## **Invocation before communion**

*(By Tim Graves, Liturgy Bits)*

Presider: Come to the Table.

**People: We come to the Table.**

Presider: Share yourselves.

**People: We come to share our whole  
selves.**

Presider: Share your gifts.

**People: We come to the Table to share  
our gifts, our hurts, & our  
uncertainty.**

Presider: Come. Christ calls you.

**All: Amen**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer:**

*(Preface: A Wee Worship Book, Wild  
Goose Resource)*

*Eucharistic Prayer: Evangelical Lutheran  
Worship, #10)*

Presider: May God be with you

**People: And also with you**

Presider: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them up**

Presider: Let us give thanks to God our  
Creator

**People: It is right to give our thanks and  
praise**

Presider: Yes, it is right to give you thanks  
and praise for the life you lived  
among us.

Speaking our language, learning  
our ways,

Sitting at our tables,

Listening to our complaints,

And never giving up on us,  
never giving up on us.

So we gladly celebrate your  
life as in concert with the  
church in heaven and earth  
we join the song of your  
unending praise.

**Sung Sanctus (St Brides setting)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full  
Are full of your glory.**

**Blessed is the One who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosana in the highest.  
Hosana in the highest.**

Presider: O God most mighty,  
O God most merciful,  
O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.  
When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.

Presider: When Abraham and Sarah were  
barren,  
you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought  
Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for  
healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted  
the people your life.

Presider: You entered our sorrows in  
Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,  
he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love,  
he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was  
betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and  
gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his  
disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body,  
given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of  
me.

Presider: Again, after supper, he took  
the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all  
to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in  
my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance  
of me.

Presider: Remembering his death,  
we cry out Amen.

**People: Amen**

Presider: Celebrating his  
resurrection, we shout  
Amen.

**People: Amen**

Presider: Trusting his presence in  
every time and place, we  
plead Amen.

**People: Amen**

Presider: O God, you are Breath:

**All: send your Spirit on this  
meal.**

Presider: O God, you are Bread:

**All: feed us with yourself.**

Presider: O God, you are wine:

**All: warm our hearts and  
make us one.**

Presider: O God, you are Fire:

**All: transform us with hope.**

Presider: O God most majestic, O God  
most motherly,  
O God our strength and our  
song,

**All: you show us a vision of a  
tree of life  
with fruits for all and  
leaves that heal the  
nations.**

Presider: Grant us such life,  
the life of the Father to the  
Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our  
risen Savior,  
life in you, now and forever.  
Amen.

Presider: And now as our Saviour  
taught us, let us pray in the  
language of our hearts:

**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.

**Fraction (Breaking of Bread):**

**Presider:** As Jesus broke bread,  
**People:** **We break bread.**  
**Presider:** As Jesus shared wine,  
**People:** **We share this cup.**

## **Invitation to the Table:**

**Presider:** Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Communion:**

*All people are welcome to receive Communion of one kind (Wafers). Gluten free wafer are available upon request.*

*Please wear your mask and sanitize your hands before receiving. We ask that you wait until you have returned to your seat before removing your mask and consuming the wafer.*

*While the communion is being administered, we respectfully ask that you keep the silence.*

## **Communion: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song**

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I  
journey,  
I'll tell everybody about you where ever I  
go:

For our life and our peace and our love is  
yourself.

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I  
journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I  
journey,

May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of  
you.

May the earth and the sea and the sky join  
my song.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I  
journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your  
servant  
to carry your cross and to share all your  
burdens and tears,  
for you saved me by giving your body and  
blood.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your  
servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my  
journey,  
but courage will come with the sound of  
your steps by my side;  
and with all of the family you saved by  
your love,  
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of  
our journey.

## **Prayer after Communion**

*(Iona Abbey Worship Book, 2016)*

Presider: Give thanks for all God's  
goodness.

**All: God's love shall last for ever.**

Presider: Generous and faithful God,

**All: you have fed us at your table.**

**May the nourishment we have  
received**

**Enable us to enrich the lives of  
others**

**Where-ever we may go from here.**

**Amen**

**Announcements**

## **Blessing:**

Priest: May you be blessed with wise friends.

**People: May you learn to be a wise friend to yourself.**

Priest: May you be able to journey to that place in your soul where there is great love, warmth, feeling, and forgiveness. May this change you.

**People: May it transfigure that which is negative, distant, or cold in you.**

**All: May you be brought into the real passion, kinship, and affinity of belonging.**

**Amen**

## **Closing Hymn: Great Is Your Faithfulness**

Great is your faithfulness, O God my  
Father,  
There is now shadow of turning with you;  
You never change, your compassion will  
fail not;  
Ever the same, yet eternally new!

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness! Great is  
your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new  
mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has  
provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, Lord,  
unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and  
harvest,  
Sun, moon and the stars in their courses  
above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To your great faithfulness, mercy and  
love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace all-enduring,  
Your own dear presence to cheer and to  
guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope  
tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand  
beside! (Refrain)

## **Dismissal:**

Presider: In the name of the Light  
that came into the world go  
in peace.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**