

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

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021**

**Good News: Much of what you see, hear, and experience during our
worship is Metaphorical and Symbolic.**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth

Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

The Rev. Tim Bowman

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: Tim

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: 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: 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: Tim

Look - there he is! Atop the snowy mountains, among the cedar forests, within the clay hills and the grapevines. God is calling.

**Listen - there she is! In the cry of grief, in the voice of comfort, in the
whisper of love. God is calling.**

Feel - there they are! In the familiar calloused hand, in the touch of a lover, in the fresh sea breeze. God is calling.

**Within our lives, within our time, within all that is and all that was
and all that shall be, God is calling us deeper. God is calling us
together.**

Let us pray!

Let us worship!

Let us sing!

Hymn: -"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" MV 143

*We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation, that all may
have abundant life in every earthly nation.*

*When bodies shiver in the night and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears, and war horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbour.*

*God calls humanity to join as partners in creating a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating, that new world beckons from afar,
Invites our shared endeavor, that all may have abundant life and peace endure
forever.*

Children's Time: Tim

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)*

We Listen for the Word of God

Scripture Reading:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our
wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come
away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of
the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth
fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming
down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due
to change.

In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we
would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to
speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Sermon: "Delight in God's Presence"

Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" VU 232

*Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.*

*You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

We Respond to God

Prayer of Reflection: Tracy

Words, God.

So many words.

So many words in the news. So many words about climate change, about viruses, about refugees. So many words about the hydro bill, about the math test, about the cancer diagnosis.

So many words to hear, to use, to manage, to think about.

Help us to stop and take a breath.

Make us quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.

Still us.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance: Tracy

God will speak God's word.

God will fill us with the Word.

We will speak the Word into our own hearts, and into our world. Into God's world.

All: Thanks be 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: Tracy

Prayers from the Chat: Tracy

Lord's Prayer (Spoken) VU 921

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth, as it is in heaven.

*Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

*For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever, Amen.*

Acknowledging our Gifts for the work of God: Tracy

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: Tracy

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: MV 509 - "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? R*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? R*

Benediction: Bill

Hymn: "Sent out in Jesus Name" MV 212

*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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