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*The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop*

*The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest*

***“Together in Christ  
we seek to love God and  
to love and serve all others”***

**September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
Sunday Virtual Worship Service**



***WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT***

*We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.*

*Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher presides, & Colleen Lissamer preaches.*

*Organ prelude - Nell Howard*

## **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Welcome:** Good morning, and welcome to this service of worship on this Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. My name is Paul Schumacher, and I am the interim priest-in-charge at the Church of The Advent during this time of transition. Again, this morning, we are joined by Colleen Lissamer, who is to be ordained a deacon in the Anglican Church, in a few short weeks. As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants, and animals, through the many generations. As we meet today, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses, and your fears, for God loves us all and all are welcome in this space. We invite you to come and join our readers, prayer leaders, music director and choir members, along with our technical team, as we offer prayer and praise to our Creator.

**Scripture Sentence of the Day:** Scripture shares with us, “Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom and healed every infirmity among the people.”

### **Opening Hymn: CP430 “Will You Come and Follow Me”**

(Text: John Bell {1949-}. Music: Melody Scottish traditional; arr. John Bell {1949-}. Text and arr. © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications Inc., *exclusive agents*.)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Act of Praise:** *(From the Lutheran Book of Worship)*

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together, and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Collect of the Day:** Creator of the fruitful earth, **you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today, and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

**Chat @ the Chancel**

**Song: VU 289 "It Only Takes a Spark"**

(Text: Kurt Kaiser {1969-} Music: Kurt Kaiser {1969-}. Text and Music used by permission of Budjohn Songs.)

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing,  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it,  
You spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming,  
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it,  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found,  
On God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound,  
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know,  
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

**Psalm:** 100 (BAS Pg. 838)

1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \* **serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; \* **he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \* **give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

4 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \* **and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**Second Reading:** James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers, and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

For the Word of God is scripture,  
For the Word of God is among us,  
For the Word of God is within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn of the Day: "We Are Many Parts"**

(Text: 1 Corinthians 12,13; Marty Haugen {1950-}; Music: Marty Haugen {1950- } © 1980, 1986, 2005, GIA Publications, Inc.)

#### ***Refrain***

***We are many parts, we are all one body,  
And the gifts we have we are given to share.  
May the Spirit of love make us one indeed,  
One, the love that we share, one our hope in despair,  
One, the cross that we bear.***

God of all, we look to you,  
We would be your servants true,  
Let us be your love to all the world. ***Refrain***

So, my pain is pain for you,  
In your joy is my joy, too.  
All is brought together in the Lord. ***Refrain***

All you, seekers, great and small,  
Seek the greatest gift of all,  
If you love, then you will know the Lord. ***Refrain***

### **Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33**

The Lord be with you.

#### **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew.**

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

‘Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of Christ.

#### **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon: Colleen Lissamer

**Affirmation of Faith:**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Prayers of the People    September 5, 2021

*Written by Karen Turner for the Diocese of Toronto, Earth Sunday 2018.*

Creator God, teach us to see your presence in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for everything that you have made. Give us the grace to understand that we are connected to everything that is.

In gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. **We give you thanks, O God.**

God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts. In our imagination, allow us to see and hear and feel the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us - Mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans, Forest, meadows, trees, flowers.

In gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. **We give you thanks, O God.**

God of love, show us our place in this world, as kin to all the non-human creatures with whom we share the earth. They came forth from your hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love, and not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

In gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. **We give you thanks, O God.**

Saving God, we give thanks for all human beings on the earth, created from dust, yet crowned with glory, those we know and those who are strangers; those near to us and those far away; all of us beautiful, all of us flawed. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers, and we pray for those who need prayers, but have no one to pray for them. We pray for Travis, Bill, Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Kian, and Sierra. I invite you now to pray aloud or silently for

any others you hold in your heart. We pray that all who have asked for our prayers may know the healing power of God, and that those who die today may not die alone,

In gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. **We give you thanks, O God.**

God of abundance, we give thanks for the sun, for water, for soil, for air, on which our lives depend moment by moment. In silence we are aware of our frailty, our complete dependence on our beloved Mother Earth who nurtures us and sustains our every breath.

In gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. **We give you thanks, O God.**

Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth, yet we acknowledge that we in the developed world, have often wasted the gifts of the earth, taking more than our share, leaving our sisters and brothers in other places in poverty and need. Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth, so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us, but generations to come after us.

In gratitude, let us pray to the Lord. **We give you thanks, O God. Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution:** Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them into his grace. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:** And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Blessing:**

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, our Creator,  
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.  
And may the blessing of the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with you  
this day and forever more. **Amen.**

**Shared Ministry:**

**Commissioning Hymn: CP 393 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

(Text: Chalmers Smith {1824-1908}, alt. Music: Melody Welsh trad, adapted John Roberts of Henllan {1808-1876},  
*Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small,  
In all life thou livest, thy true life of all,  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Great Source of all glory and wisdom and light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight,  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

**Commissioning:** Tend the earth, care for God’s good creation, and bring forth the fruits of  
righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*“Let All Things Their Creator Bless”*: Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, pp. 38-39

**TODAY WE PRAY**

*Pray for the Episcopal Church of Sudan.*

*Pray for Barry our Executive Archdeacon, Anna our Bishop,*

*Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge, & Colleen.*

*Pray for the Congregation of Holy Trinity, Sooke, & Territory of the People.*

*In the Selkirk Region for Ecumenical & Inter-faith partners.*

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM**

*Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Carol Ann, Bill, Kian, Sierra, Travis, & Irene.*

*We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.*