



(Artist: LJ Throstle www.ljthrostle.ca)

St Francis of Assisi Feast Day
October 3rd, 2021
10 am Outdoor Service

Priest: The Reverend Sharon Smith
Interim Musician: Rob Gloor
Administration: Natasha Stegemann
Wardens: Robb Watt, Linda Robertson, Chris Wensley

St. Catherine's Mission, Vision and Values

St. Catherine's Anglican Church, at the heart of Edgemont Village in North Vancouver on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, is a contemporary community of Christian seekers.

We welcome you to join us in the journey. We provide a place of spiritual growth through Christ and we respond with gratitude for God's abundance in our lives through service to our brothers and sisters in the world.

Our **Vision** is to:

- Be an inclusive and thriving community of faith for all generations
- Continually invite others to join us in our journey of faith and Christian discipleship
- Honour the strengthening of relationships and development of community, both within our walls and outside them
- Minister to those in need in Christ's name

Our Values:

Welcoming to All Spiritual Seekers * Explorative
Sustainability * Care of the Earth * A Caring Community
Opportunities and Equality For All



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SAINT CATHERINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Anglican Church of Canada - Diocese of New Westminster

Situated on the unceded traditional Coast Salish territory
of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations

GATHERING

Welcome & Intentions: Rev Sharon Smith

Presider: Let us take a moment of stillness and
remember why we are here.

Presider: We are here because of grace

People: The grace of Jesus the Christ

Presider: We are here because of Love

People: The love of God

Presider: We are here to be in communion

**People: the communion of the Spirit experienced
in relationship.**

Presider: We acknowledge with respect that we worship
on the traditional and uncaded territories of
the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations. Let
us pray that we may live more deeply into the
calls to action from Canada's Truth and
Reconciliation Commission.

**All: May the living Christ lead us all on
pathways of reconciliation and peace.**

Sung Processional

Halle Halle Hallelujah

Words of Intention

Prayer of the Day:

Season of Creation – Ecumenical Resources

Priest: God our Creator,

**All: Help us to love all creatures as kin,
All animals as partners on Earth,
All birds as messengers of praise,
All minute beings as expressions of your
mysterious design
and all frogs as voices of hope,
Amen**

Opening Hymn: This is the Day (*Fijian folk melody*)

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Open to us, open to us
The gates of God; the gates of God;
We will go in, we will go in,
And praise the Lord, and praise the Lord.
Open to us the gates of God,
We will go in and praise the Lord.
Open to us, open to us the gates of God.

You are our God, you are our God;
We will praise your name, we will praise your name;
We will give thanks, we will give thanks
For your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,

We will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name.

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Thomas Merton

(from New Seeds of Contemplation, 1961)

The pale flowers of the dogwood outside this window are saints. . . the bass and trout hiding in the deep pools of the river are canonized by their beauty and their strength. The lakes hidden among the hills are saints, and the sea too is a saint who praises God without interruption in her majestic dance. . . For me to be a saint means to be myself. Therefore, the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I am and of discovering my true self. Trees and animals have no problem. God makes them what they are without consulting them, and they are perfectly satisfied. With us it is different. God leaves us free to be whatever we like. We can be ourselves or not, as we please. We are at liberty to be real, or to be unreal. We may be true or false, the choice is ours.

Poetry Response: Earth as the Original Scriptures

By Christine Valters Painter

May our eyes be opened to the Word of God scribed on
every leaf and petal,
on every wing and paw.
As the seasons unfold in their vibrant dance of change may
we hear the call from their pages
to blossom forth, to bear fruit,
to surrender and yield, to rest into mystery.

Let the journey of caterpillar to moth
teach you the path of transformation
Let the patience of mountains and singing of stones give
guidance for what it means to endure.

Let the rise and fall of the sun and moon circling the blue-
tiled sky
teach you about journeys to fullness
and to rest and release.
May Holy Wisdom be revealed in each season, reading grace
at every turn.

Song of Response: All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each radiant flower that opens,
each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their lively wings. (Refrain)

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruit in the garden,
God made them, every one.

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

The rocky mountain splendour,
the loon's wild, haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall. (Refrain)

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is the Creator,
who has made all things well. (Refrain)

Second Reading: The Gospel of Luke 12: 22-32

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, 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, how much more will God clothe you— you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and God knows that you need them. Instead, strive for the kingdom of God, and these things will be given to you as well.

Art Response:

Rev Sharon responds to the Gospel with a story

Conversational Response:

The community are invited to respond by turning to their neighbour and responding to the question:

- *I wonder what part of the story was most important for you?*
- *I wonder where you see yourself in the story?*

You may choose to quietly reflect on your own during this time.

The time ends with the sound of a singing bowl.

Prayer

Prayers of Concern: (From the Abby of the Arts, 2018)

Leader: We offer prayers now for all that is on our hearts.

Creator God, forgive us when we do not recognize the other-than-human as holy. Forgive us for abusing and torturing these our kin in research laboratories and unethical ways of farming. Help us hear their cries and change our ways.

Please offer your prayers silently or aloud.

Leader: O Wise One, may we discover the deep wisdom your creatures have to teach us. May we learn from them how to inhabit each moment and find our place in the cosmic dance of reciprocity and renewal.

Please offer your prayers silently or aloud.

Leader: May we learn from your creatures how to fully be ourselves. Just as an oak tree lives fully as an Oak, never wishing to be Holly or the Mountain Range does not try to change itself into a River, may we find our true calling and sainthood in true self- acceptance, knowing that we are made in your image.
Amen

The Blessing of the Animals

(Based on Book of Occasional Services – Episcopal Church)

Priest: God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us.

We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

*You are invited to bring your animals forward for blessing.
Please introduce them to Rev Sharon by name.*

If you would like an animal blessed who is not physically present, come forward and share their name with Rev. Sharon, and she will pray a blessing with you.

Priest: *(Name of Animal)*, May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. Amen.

Priest: Let us pray.

**All: God of all creation,
we give you thanks and praise.
Open our eyes to see your face in all creation.
Let your blessing be upon these and all animals.
May our love and care for them
reflect your compassion and safekeeping
of all creation. Amen.**

Sending

Announcements

Blessing – Rev. Sharon

Priest: May the Spirit of God, who is above and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you.
Go in peace!
Serving God and loving all creatures.

**All: We go in peace,
Serving God as we love our animal kin.**

Sending Out Song: He's got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in his hands x4

He's got the little bitty baby in his hands x3
He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the birds and the animals in his hands x3
He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got everybody here in his hands x3
He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the whole world in his hands x4

Thank you for ministering this morning:

Music:	Rob Gloor
Greeters:	Marion Porter & Gillian Holland
Altar Guild:	Bonnie Grundy
Readers:	Vivian McGie
Intercessor:	Lynn Spence
Sunday School:	Daela Dalzell

THANKSGIVING 2021

October 10th: Traditional Service with Hymn Sing
Coffee Time at 9:15 am
Children gather at 9:30 am



Thanksgiving Outreach:

Would you consider making a special donation, over and above your usual thanksgiving offering to the church?

We will be purchasing as many Save On Foods \$25 gift cards as possible to allocate to the organisations listed above.

How to Donate:

1. Cash or cheque (clearly marked **Thanksgiving Outreach**) delivered to the church office
2. Save On Gift cards to the amount of \$25 delivered to the church office
3. Online Donation through Canada Helps (Apply donation to the fund: **Thanksgiving Outreach 2021**): [Canada Helps Link](#)
4. *Unspecified* Thanksgiving offerings made to the church received on or before October 4th, 2021 will be divided (50% to the Thanksgiving Outreach and 50% to St Catherine's Church).



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