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The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest

The Rev. Colleen Lissamer, Deacon

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

**October 10th, 2021 – Harvest Thanksgiving
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 & preaches.

Organ prelude - Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome: Good morning, and welcome to this service of worship on this Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost and Harvest Thanksgiving in Canada. My name is Paul Schumacher, and I am the interim priest-in-charge at the Church of The Advent during this time of transition. 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, “Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.”

Opening Hymn: CP #423 “How Great Thou Art”

(Words: Stuart K. Hine {1899-1989}, inspired by Swedish text by Carl Gustav Boberg {1859-1940}. Music: Melody Swedish traditional; harm. Stuart K. Hine {1899-1989}. Text and harmony © 1953, 1981 Manna Music, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: **Refrain**

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin: **Refrain**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And claim his own, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" **Refrain**

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)*

O God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another and all creation. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may be a reflection of the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, **your generous goodness comes to us new every day. Through the in-dwelling of your Holy Spirit, lead us to knowledge of your goodness. May we give thanks for all your good gifts and serve you with willingness of heart, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat @ the Chancel: Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

Song: MV #87 "Water Flowing from the Mountain"

(Words and music: Jim Hannah; Arr. David Melhorn-Boe, 2006. Words and music copyright © 2003: Jim Hannah. Arrangement copyright © 2006: David Melhorn-Boe.)

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain:

***Drink deep this source of life.
Drink deep and know.
For living water sings,
And living water brings the love
that makes our spirit grow.***

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free. **Refrain**

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water come to us, so precious.
Living water for each one. **Refrain**

Psalm: 126 (BAS Pg. 885)

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

First Reading: Joel 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!

Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no
other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

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.

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be
made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and
peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our
Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For
there is one God;

 there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
 who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am
telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
All: Thanks Be to God

Hymn of the Day: CP #258 “We Plough the Fields and Scatter”

(Text: Matthew Claudius {1740-1815}; translated Jane Montgomery Campbell {1817-1878}. Music: Johann Abraham
Peter Schulz {1747-1800}. Public domain)

We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain:

***All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.***

He only is the maker of all things near and far:
He paints the wayside flower; he lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey him; by him the birds are fed:
Much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread. **Refrain**

We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good:
The seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer for all thy love imparts,
And, what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts. **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: Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

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 October 10, 2021

Hidden God, you are every present to me. May I now be present to you, attentive to your every word, attuned to your inspirations, alert to your touch. Empty me that I may be filled with you alone.

I will end each petition with: In gratitude to you Lord.

Please respond with: **We thank you Holy One.**

This Thanksgiving, let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God's gracious world. With thankful hearts, we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing.

In gratitude to you Lord.

We thank you Holy One.

Loving Lord, we thank you every day for your blessings, but, today, above all days, as we call this day Thanksgiving Day, we give you thanks for everything you have given us. We give thanks for the sun and moon, the wind and rain, the fertile soil, and the parched desert. We give thanks for our gardens, forests, woodlands, and farmlands. We thank you for our families, large and small. We thank you for our friends, especially for those we haven't seen for a long time.

In gratitude to you Lord.

We thank you Holy One.

We give thanks for our church and our church family. We ask that you bless our church and all churches in our region, our diocese, and our country. We pray for all leaders of all churches and ask that you give them the wisdom and the knowledge they require to do your work.

In gratitude to you Lord.

We thank you Holy One.

Loving Lord we pray for those who have asked us to pray for them. We also pray for those who have no one to pray for them. We ask that you hold them in Your healing hands. You alone know their needs Lord. We pray for Cynthia, Irene, Travis, Bill, Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Kian, the staff and residents of Westshore Lodge and any others you wish to name out loud or silently in your hearts.

In gratitude to you Lord.

We thank you Holy One.

Loving Creator, we pray for all who mourn. We ask that they find comfort in You. We ask for your strength for them in their time of need. Let them know they are loved and wrap them in Your love and warmth. We pray for the family and friends of Bob Flint, especially his wife Peggy, and their children Darleen, Heather, Dave and Russ.

In gratitude to you Lord.

We thank you Holy One.

Gracious Lord, we ask blessings on all members of our Military, all police, firefighters and first responders. Please watch over those here at home and those deployed throughout the world and return them safely to their families.

In gratitude to you Lord.

We thank you Holy One.

May the love of God watch over you.

May the peace of Christ fill your heart.

May the presence of the Holy Spirit fill you and speak to you in your dreams.

May the Spirit of Thanksgiving be with you all this Weekend and beyond.

Shalom.

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: Commissioning Hymn: MV #30 "It is a Song of Praise to the Maker"

(Words: Ruth Duck, 1992; © 1992 GIA Publications. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1992; © 1992 by Ron Klusmeier)

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver,
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides
break on the shore,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Commissioning: Merciful God, your hand is open wide, so to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence. Grant that we may be faithful stewards of all your good gifts and care for every thing you have given for our well-being.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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TODAY WE PRAY

*Pray for The Province of West Africa.
Pray for Barry our Executive Archdeacon, Anna our Bishop,
Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge, & Colleen our Deacon.
Pray for the S. Dunstan, Gordon Head, & Territory of the People.
In the Selkirk Region for S. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Carol Ann, Bill, Kian, Travis, Bob, Irene, & Cynthia.
The staff and residents of Westshore Lodge.
The family and friends of Bob Flint, wife Peggy, and children Darleen, Heather, Dave and Russ.
We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.*