October 10th, 2021

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Thanksgiving Sunday

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

We are called to be an encouraging and compassionate

 faith community, committed to sharing with all, a joyful

 and Christ-like spirituality

**Trinity Memorial & Aldergrove United Churches**

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Prelude

**We Approach**

**Words of Welcome and Announcements**

**Procession of the Bible - Bill**

**Hymn – “Come All You People” MV 2**

*Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker (3x)*

*Come now and worship the Lord.*

*Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker (3x)*

*Come now and worship the Lord.*

**Acknowledgement of the Peoples and the Land – Bill**

We live and work and worship on land that we acknowledge is the unceded lands of the Stó:lō  people. As we celebrate the rich bounty of harvest from local gardens from other places – fruits, vegetables, grains from the field, the last of summer’s flowers, and a rich array of autumn leaves – we are reminded that we are called into right relationship with the land and our neighbours of the Stó:lō  people. We affirm the need to work towards reconciliation and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Lighting the Rainbow Candle Bill**

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 – Bill**

One: The Light of Christ shining into our world.

**All: God is Good. Thanks be to God.**

**Call to Worship: Bill**
For the bounty of the harvest,

for the colours of fall,

**thanks be to God.**

For the miracle of bird migrations,

for the ingenuity of hibernation,

**thanks be to God.**

For the glories of the earth all around us,

**we give thanks to God, our Creator.**

In a spirit of humility and thankfulness,

come let us worship God as one

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Hymn: “As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought” VU 518**

*As those of old their first-fruits brought*

*of vineyard, flock, and field to God, the giver of all good,*

*the source of bounteous yield;*

*so we today our first-fruits bring:*

*the wealth of this good land, of farm and market,*

*shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.*

*A world in need now summons us to labour, love, and give,*

*to make our life an offering to God, that all may live. The church of Christ*

*is calling us to make the dream come true: a world redeemed,*

*by Christ-like love ,all life in Christ made new.*

*With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,*

*not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.*

*O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son,*

*help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.*

**Opening Prayer: Bill**

Holy One,

We praise you for these simple gifts on an autumn day:

the chipmunks darting in and out of the garden,

the tiny nuthatches at the feeder,

the way thanksgiving springs to our lips as praise lifts our hearts.

Before we ask, we are forgiven.

Before we notice, we are blessed.

Before we pray, we are already held in your love.

For the blessing of your unending grace, we give thanks in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Hymn: “Ev’ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving” MV 185**

*Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving. God, you’ve been so good to me.*

*Ev’ry day you’re blessing me.*

 *You know that ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving.*

 *I will glorify you, O My God, today! X 2*

*You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.*

*You opened the door that I might see, you’re blessing me.*

*And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.*

*I will glorify you, O my God, today. X 2*

**Learning with Our Children – Tracy**

**Hymn: “Ev’ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving” MV 185**

**We Listen and Reflect**

**Hebrew Scripture: Joel 2: 21 – 27**

21Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! 22Do 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. 23O 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. 24The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25I 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. 26You 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. 27You 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.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 25 – 33**

25“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? 26Look 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? 27And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30But 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? 31Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon:** **“Hoping for What is Not Yet”** **Tracy**

**Hymn: “Called by Earth and Sky” MV 135**

***Chorus) Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.***

 ***This is our sacred living trust,***

 ***treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.***

*Precious, these waters, endless seas,*

*deep ocean’s dream, waters of healing,*

*rivers of rain, the wash of love again.* ***Chorus***

*Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.*

*Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,*

*our gathering and our grace.* ***Chorus***

*Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.*

*Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong,*

*Creation’s faithful song.* ***Chorus***

*Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.*

*Fire of passion, sorrows undone,*

*our faith and justice one.* ***Chorus***

# We Respond in Love and Action

**Prayer of Reflection** Tracy

Generous God, whenever we perceive scarcity, may you open us to embrace your reality of plenty. Whenever we feel isolated and abandoned, may you open us to risking companionship. Whenever we shrink from your touch out of shame-filled fear, may you prepare us for transformation. Whenever we are filled with worry and alarm, may you create space within us for your embrace, opening us to moments of healing and wholeness.

*(a time of silent prayer)*

**Words of Assurance:** Tracy

Jesus came to bring abundant life. Know that life, that love, that goodness, and then go out to support structures and programs, and all of humanity, that reflect abundant life in the world. Thanks be to God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gathering our Prayers and Online Prayers Bill**

After each prayer request, we will respond with:

One: Loving God,

**All: Hear the prayers of your people**

**Prayers of the People for the World Bill** .

**The Lord’s Prayer (Recite 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,

For ever and ever. Amen

**Prayer of Dedication Bill**

**Hymn: “For the Fruit of All Creation” VU 227**

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.*

*For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.*

*For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,*

*silent growth while we are sleeping,*

*future needs in earth’s safekeeping thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labour, God’s will is done.*

*In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.*

*In our worldwide task of caring*

*for the hungry and despairing,*

*in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.*

*For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.*

*For the wonders that asround us,*

*for the truths that still confound us,*

*most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

**Commissioning and Benediction Tracy**

**Sung Response:** **“May God's Sheltering Wings” MV 214**

*May God’s sheltering wings,*

*her gathering wings protect you.*

*May God’s nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you, and hold you*

*in her love, and hold you in her love.*

Postlude

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Music Director: Christine Schaufert

Choir Director: Ron Schaufert

Organist: Donna Poncelet

Song Leader: Jerry Johnson & Edie Hayden

Tech. Support: Logan Schlosser & Jeremy Wright

Preaching today: The Rev. Bill Booth

Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield & The Rev. Bill Booth