October 24th, 2021

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

**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**

**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**

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**

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**

There once was a wonderful man who did wonderful thing and they said, “He is the light of the world.” In his light, the light of Christ, we gather. Let us now light this candle.

**Call to Worship**

One: Let us gather today for worship, knowing God’s worthy of our praise!

**All: God is our hope for the present and the future, the grace and love of times sometimes unseen.**

One: God is our peace in the depths of our hearts,

**All: God is our joy amidst both happy and unhappy times.**

One: God is our shining example of love.

**All: Be with us in this time, O God and come and bless our hearts.**

**Hymn: “Come Touch Our Hearts” MV 12**

*Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,*

*from failing embers build a blazing fire;*

*love strong enough to overturn injustice,*

*to seek a world more gracious,*

 *come touch and bless our hearts.*

*Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,*

*your quiet presence all our fears dispel;*

*create a space for spirit to grow in us,*

*let life and beauty fill us,*

 *come touch and bless our souls.*

*Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,*

 *set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;*

*help us to open doors of understanding,*

*to welcome truth and wisdom,*

*come touch and bless our minds.*

*Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,*

*and in our weakness your great strength reveal;*

*that we may rise to follow and to serve,*

*steady now our nerve,*

*come touch and bless our wills.*

*Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,*

 *to break the bread and share the cup of peace;*

*that we may love you with our heart,*

*our soul, our mind, our strength, our all,*

*come touch us with your grace.*

**Opening Prayer**Ever-present God, we sit in front of our computers, or in these pews, and you are with us. It is amazing! We are in contact with our loved ones, both connected by kinship and friendship, and we are left humbled. It is awesome! We know folks who are estranged from special people of their circle, leaving a hole. It is sad! The news of the day echoes in our head and we imagine the needs of people who are hungry in far-off parts of our world. It is humbling! The pain of the hurting is as close as the neighbour near us. It is challenging! The coronavirus attacking millions worldwide is indiscriminate. It is frightening! We hear Jesus’ call to care for hi beloved ones. We hear Job having a change in heart. In this time of worship, may we listen to your inspired word to love boldly, receive your grace and never cease to be surprised by your actions in our lives. In the name of the Radical Christ, we pray. 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!*

*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.*

**Learning with Our Children**

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

**We Listen and Reflect**

**Scripture:**

**Job 42: 1 – 6, 10 – 17**

Then Job replied to the Lord:

**2**“I know that you can do all things;
    no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
**3**You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
    Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
    things too wonderful for me to know.

**4**“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
    I will question you,
    and you shall answer me.’
**5**My ears had heard of you
    but now my eyes have seen you.
**6**Therefore I despise myself
    and repent in dust and ashes.”

**10**After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. **11**All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+42&version=NIV#fen-NIV-13934a)] and a gold ring.

**12**The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. **13**And he also had seven sons and three daughters. **14**The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. **15**Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

**16**After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. **17**And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

### Psalm 34: 1 – 22

#### Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek,

#### who drove him away, and he left.

**1**I will extol the Lord at all times;
    his praise will always be on my lips.
**2**I will glory in the Lord;
    let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
**3**Glorify the Lord with me;
    let us exalt his name together.

**4**I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
    he delivered me from all my fears.
**5**Those who look to him are radiant;
    their faces are never covered with shame.
**6**This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
    he saved him out of all his troubles.
**7**The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
    and he delivers them.

**8**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
    blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
**9**Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
    for those who fear him lack nothing.
**10**The lions may grow weak and hungry,
    but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
**11**Come, my children, listen to me;
    I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
**12**Whoever of you loves life
    and desires to see many good days,
**13**keep your tongue from evil
    and your lips from telling lies.
**14**Turn from evil and do good;
    seek peace and pursue it.

**15**The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
    and his ears are attentive to their cry;
**16**but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
    to blot out their name from the earth.

**17**The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
    he delivers them from all their troubles.
**18**The Lord is close to the broken-hearted
    and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

**19**The righteous person may have many troubles,
    but the Lord delivers him from them all;
**20**he protects all his bones,
    not one of them will be broken.

**21**Evil will slay the wicked;
    the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
**22**The Lord will rescue his servants;
    no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn: “Spirit, Open My Heart” MV 79**

***C) Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.***

***As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,***

***Spirit, open my heart.***

*God, replace my stony heart with a heart that’s kind and tender*

*All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.* ***C)***

*Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.*

*In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.* ***C)***

*May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.*

*In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.****C)***

**Sermon: “God Does Great Things”**

**Hymn: “Know That God is Good” MV 104 (Twice)**

*Know that God is good, know that God is good, know that God is good,*

*God is good, God is good.*

*Mu-ngu ni mwe-ma, Mu-ngu ni mwe-ma, Mu-ngu ni mwe-ma,*

*ni mwe-ma, ni mwe-ma*

*Know that God is good, know that God is good, know that God is good,*

*God is good, God is good.*

*Mu-ngu ni mwe-ma, Mu-ngu ni mwe-ma, Mu-ngu ni mwe-ma,*

*ni mwe-ma, ni mwe-ma*

**We Respond In Love and Action**

**Prayer of Reflection:**

Gracious God, we offer you our soft selves, honestly and timidly, knowing you are a good and gentle God. It can be scary to name the hurt that has been done to us and the hurt we’ve done to others. But we know there is new life for us beyond our cuts and bruises. WE know there is restoration for us in our relationships with you and the rest of our human family. Take our insecurities and fears, which drive us to hurt ourselves and others, take them and transform them into the seeds of your grace and compassion. Amen.

**Words of Assurance:**

One: Let your heart bear witness to the wonder of God’s presence in Creation and within you. Blessed and redeemed you are whole.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gathering our Prayers and Online Prayers**

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**

**The Lord’s Prayer (Recite 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,

For ever and ever. Amen

**Our Offering and Response**

**Offertory/Doxology:** “**We Praise You, O God.” VU 218 vs 1**

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;*

*in grateful devotion, our tribute we bring.*

*We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;*

*we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn: “****Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” VU 266**

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound*

 *that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found,*

*was blind, but now I see.*

*‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,*

*and grace my fears relieved;*

*how precious did that grace appear*

*the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,*

*I have already come;*

*‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far,*

*and grace will lead me home.*

*The lord has promised good to me,*

*this word my hope secures;*

*God will my shield and portion be*

*as long as life endures.*

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years,*

*bright shining as the sun,*

*we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise*

*than when we’d first begun.*

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**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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Ministers: Aldergrove UC - The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

 & Trinity Memorial UC - The Rev. Bill Booth

Music Co-ordinator: Christine Schaufert

Guest Pianist: Allison Howard (Aldergrove UC)

Choir Director: Ron Schaufert

Organist: Donna Poncelet

Song Leader: Jerry Johnson & Edie Hayden

Tech. Support: Logan Schlosser & David O’Neil

Preaching today: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield