



Wednesday December 22nd, 2021

Lunchtime Worship

St. John's acknowledges that the Church buildings, and all living in Victoria, are on the ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking people.

Gathering to worship

Let us worship together as one voice

All Amen

God is with you

All And also with you.

This is the day that the Divine has made

All We will rejoice and be

glad in it.

Opening Prayer

**All Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit
and in truth Amen**

Blessed is the Creator

All for God has heard the voice of our prayer.

The Church Family Prayer

Loving God,

All: you have called us to be your family and to celebrate our life together in worship. We pray now, for all members of our family as we gather in our church buildings, our homes, and online. Through your spirit keep us united in love. Bless each of us with your beloved friendship. Teach us, gracious God, how to be your church in these times. Help us to know that we are your people, that we are your Family, always. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, Jesus the Promised One.

Amen. (Common Worship: Additional Collects, 2004)

PSALM 98

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The LORD has made known his victory;

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

A prayer for children

Loving God,
your Son told his disciples
to become like little children.
Lead us to work for the welfare
and protection of all young people.
May we respect their dignity
that they may flourish in life,
following the example of our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer of hope

God of compassion,
your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,
whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable
and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:
we hold before you those who are homeless and cold.
Draw near and comfort them in spirit
and bless those who work to provide them
with shelter, food and friendship.

Affirmation

With people everywhere
**All We affirm God's goodness at the heart of
humanity Planted more deeply than all that
is wrong**

With all creation
**All We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life.
The unfolding purposes of God, forever
at work In ourselves and the world**

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Let us say together:

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

*The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.*

MAY YOU GROW STILL ENOUGH TO HEAR
THE SMALL NOISES EARTH MAKES IN
PREPARING FOR THE LONG SLEEP OF
WINTER, SO THAT YOU YOURSELF MAY
GROW CALM AND GROUNDED DEEP WITHIN.

MAY YOU GROW STILL ENOUGH TO HEAR
THE TRICKLING OF WATER SEEPING INTO
THE GROUND, SO THAT YOUR SOUL MAY
BE SOFTENED AND HEALED, AND GUIDED
IN ITS FLOW.

MAY YOU GROW STILL ENOUGH TO HEAR
THE SPLINTERING OF STARLIGHT IN THE
WINTER SKY AND THE ROAR AT EARTH'S
FIERY CORE.

MAY YOU GROW STILL ENOUGH TO HEAR
THE STIR OF A SINGLE SNOWFLAKE IN THE
AIR, SO THAT YOUR INNER SILENCE MAY
TURN INTO HUSHED EXPECTATION.

~ BROTHER DAVID STEINDL-RYST

Closing Prayer:

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Bishop Ken Untener

During this time may our Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant
comfort.

Grant
healing.

Be with us, Lord. Amen.

Gracious God,

All accept these
prayers

In the name of our brother, Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Thank you for spending this time with us today.

Go in peace to love and serve.

All Thanks be to God. Amen.

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