

*Our mission is to love God, to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to nurture and strengthen our Christian faith.*

August 22, 2021

Presiding – Rev. Tim Nethercott

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

SEED OF MEDITATION

PRELUDE *Improvisation*

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Affirming and Right Relations Candle: May these candles remind us to respect and defend all the wondrous diversity we and all people are created in and to honour the land we live on, the traditional territory of Treaty 7 and Métis 3 peoples.

Christ Candle: May this candle remind us that the light of Christ is with us always; in the world, in the universe and in us.

FOCUSING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

We gather today
through a mighty strength: the invocation of the Trinity;
through belief in the Threeness and confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

We gather today through
God's strength to pilot us,
God's eye to look before us,
God's wisdom to guide us,
God's way to lie before us,
God's shield to protect us,
God's ear to hear us,
God's word to speak for us,
God's hand to guard us,
God's way to lie before us,
God's shield to protect us,
God's host to secure us.

From St. Patrick's Breastplate

OPENING PRAYER:

Open our lips
that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.
Open our eyes
that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.
Breathe your spirit into us,
and touch our lives with the life of Christ.
Amen.

Aotearoa, New Zealand

HYMN

This is the Day

VU #412

- 1 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.
- 2 Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.
- 3 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.
- 4 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,

we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

READINGS

Contemporary Words

From St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be in me.
Christ beside me
Christ to win me
Christ to comfort and restore me
Christ beneath me
Christ above me
Christ in quiet
Christ in danger
Christ in hearts of all who love me
Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger

Words from Scripture

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

SPECIAL MUSIC *'Laudate Dominum' from "Solemn Vespers"* W. A. Mozart
Translation: Praise the Lord, all nations; Praise Him, all people. For His has bestowed
His mercy upon us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Brittany Rae -
soprano

REFLECTION 'Something for Everyone'

HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* VU # 686

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your power;
 now fulfil your church's story;
 bring its bud to glorious flower.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
 scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
 fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 free our hearts to work and praise.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure your children's warring madness,
 bend our pride to your control;
 shame our wanton selfish gladness,
 rich in goods and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Set our feet on lofty places,
 gird our lives that they may be
 armoured with all Christlike graces,
 pledged to set all captives free.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 that we fail not them nor thee.

HONOURING OUR GIFTS

**God of abundant life, we offer our gifts with love in response to your great love
for us. Fill us with the spirit of the risen Christ and inspire us to live in your way.
Amen**

DEDICATION PRAYER

**Loving God,
bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give.
May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating
and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity
You envision for the world. Amen.**

A TIME OF PRAYER

We thank you, compassionate God,
that you hear the prayers of our hearts:
all who rejoice at a baby's new birth,
all who mourn when the circle is incomplete,
when a friend or loved one has died,
all who are grateful when their work meets with success,
all who suffer because no work is to be found,
all who are bored, not having enough to do, all who are tired, having too much to do,
all who are surrounded by the love of family and friends,
all who are lonely.

Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life.

Help us to support one another always:

rejoicing with those who rejoice,
and weeping with those who weep.

We want to be joined together
as members of the body of Christ,
loving one another and serving the world.

Like Jesus, we want to respond
to each human being who crosses our path
with sensitivity and compassion.

Into the silence of this moment I invite you to raise the prayers of your heart this morning:

silence

We lift up these prayers, spoken and unspoken, in your name.
This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

And now we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

VU #959

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

Go in peace,
have courage,
hold fast to what is good,
return no-one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint-hearted,
support the weary,
help the suffering,
and honour all creatures.
Love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMN *God, As We Rise to Leave*

VU #417

- 1 God, as we rise to leave this shell of worship,
 called to the risk of unprotected living,
 willing to be at one with all your people,
 we ask for courage.
- 2 For all the strain with living interwoven,
 for the demands each day will make upon us,
 and for the love we owe the modern city,
 God, make us cheerful.
- 3 Give us an eye for openings to serve you;
 make us alert when calm is interrupted,

ready and wise to use the unexpected;
sharpen our insight.

- 4 Lift from our life the blanket of convention;
give us the nerve to lose our life to others;
be with your church in death and resurrection,
God of all ages.

POSTLUDE *Improvisation*