

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

July 18, 2021

Presiding – Rev. Tim Nethercott

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

SEED OF MEDITATION A designated patient 'carries' the group's dysfunction. A designated issue performs the same service for an individual, dominating our psyches so that other troubles can go unnoticed. --Martha Beck

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Affirming and Right Relations Candle: May these candles remind us to respect and defend the diversity in which we and all people are created and 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

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

**We long for the time
when we can gather in person
in our own sanctuary
to tell our stories
to sing our songs
and to say our prayers.
Still today we each connect
from our own homes.
Yet we gather in one Spirit
and in that Spirit we pray...**

OPENING PRAYER:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires, known
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

VU #325

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.
- 3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.
- 4 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

READINGS

Contemporary Words

“Perhaps it is easier to understand that even though we do not have the wisdom to enumerate the reasons for the behavior of another person, we can grant that each individual does have their private world of meaning, conceived out of the integrity and dignity of their personality.”

— Virginia M. Axline, *Dibs in Search of Self*

“Specifically, how are we to draw the boundaries of exclusion and inclusion in the life of the church? Sacrifice—the purity impulse—marks off a zone of holiness, admitting the “clean” and expelling the “unclean.” Mercy, by contrast, crosses those purity boundaries. Mercy blurs the distinction, bringing clean and unclean into contact. Thus the tension. One impulse—holiness and purity—erects boundaries, while the other impulse—mercy and hospitality—crosses and ignores those boundaries.”

— Richard Beck, *Unclean: meditations on purity, hospitality, and morality*

Words from Scripture

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

SPECIAL MUSIC

REFLECTION Blessed are the Unclean

HYMN

When Jesus the Healer

VU #358

1 When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee,

Heal us, heal us today!
the deaf came to hear and the blind came to see.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

2 A paralyzed man was let down through a roof.
Heal us, heal us today!
His sins were forgiven, his walking the proof.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

3 The death of his daughter caused Jairus to weep.
Heal us, heal us today!
The Lord took her hand, and he raised her from sleep.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

4 When blind Bartimaeus cried out to the Lord,
Heal us, heal us today!
his faith made him whole and his sight was restored.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

5 The lepers were healed and the demons cast out.
Heal us, heal us today!
A bent woman straightened to laugh and to shout.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

6 The twelve were commissioned and sent out in twos,
Heal us, heal us today!
to make the sick whole and to spread the good news.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

7 There's still so much sickness and suffering today.
Heal us, heal us today!
We gather together for healing and pray:
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

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

With all our heart and mind let us pray to God.
saying "Hear our prayer".

Inspire all those who lead and serve St David's United Church.
May they know your guidance and direction.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Help us to be inclusive and forgiving
to all those we encounter.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Show us how to serve one another,
to offer love, care and support.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Guide all those who have answered the call to govern,
may they act in wisdom always.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Empower Peggy and Amy, the clergy of St. David's
to be bringers of hope in all situations.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Watch over our indigenous sisters and brothers
Guide us in living into right relations with them.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Come embrace those in pain and physical suffering.
May they feel you close to them.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Watch over all those who feel isolated and alone.
Calm their fears and lead them into peace and freedom.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and encourage all those who seek
to serve and protect the vulnerable.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lead us to be generous
with our time, possessions and money.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have lost loved ones,
comfort them in their grief
and heal the broken-hearted.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Finally, we bring to mind any in our community
that we know to be in need.

silence

May love and gentleness fill their days.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Hear these and the silent prayers of our hearts, O God,
as we lift them up to you.

And now we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

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 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

VU # 326

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
 my great Redeemer's praise,
 the glories of my God and King,
 the triumphs of God's grace.
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
 that bids our sorrows cease;
 'tis music in the sinner's ears,
 'tis life and health and peace.
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,
 new life the dead receive,
 the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,
 the humble poor believe.
- 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
 your tongues again employ;
 you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
 and leap, you lame, for joy!
- 5 My gracious Master and my God,
 assist me to proclaim,
 to spread through all the earth abroad
 the honours of your name.

POSTLUDE