Open To The Light

St Catherines ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday in Easter
May 14, 2023

Priest: The Reverend Sharon Smith
Musician and Choir Director: Rob Gloor
Administration: Natasha Stegemann
Wardens: Vivian McGie, Linda Robertson, Chris Wensley

St. Catherine's Mission, Vision and Values

St. Catherine's Anglican Church, near the heart of Edgemont Village in North Vancouver on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səl̓il̓ilw̓ətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, is a contemporary community of Christian seekers.

We welcome you to join us in the journey. We provide a place of spiritual growth through Christ and we respond with gratitude for God's abundance in our lives through service to our brothers and sisters in the world.

Our **Vision** is to:

- Be an inclusive and thriving community of faith for all generations
- Continually invite others to join us in our journey of faith and Christian discipleship
- Honour the strengthening of relationships and development of community, both within our walls and outside them
- Minister to those in need in Christ's name

Our Values:

St Catherine's is a community that aspires to be:

Welcoming, Inclusive, Curious, Creative,
Sustainable, Caring and Humble

Bulletin image: Thomas Waterman Wood, 1823-1903, Vanderbilt

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SAINT CATHERINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Anglican Church of Canada - Diocese of New Westminster
Situated on the unceded traditional Coast Salish territory of the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilw̓ətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations

As you enter the church, we invite you to light a votive candle to remember a person or situation that you carry on your heart. Candles are also available during communion.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Intention: Rev Sharon Smith

A moment of silent reflection.

Presider: Alleluia Christ is Risen!
People: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia.

Presider: As we gather on the unceded and ancestral lands of Coast Salish nations, let us pray that Christ's grace and peace will be with us.
All: May we be ministers of the reconciling love of the Risen Christ.
May our hearts be filled with joy. Alleluia!

Gloria *(sung)*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Presider: Friends, The Light of Christ is among us.
All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn: Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting nor wasting, you rule in great might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all things life giving, to both great and small,
in all you are living, the true life of all:
we blossom and flourish, uncertain and frail;
we wither and perish, but you never fail.

Great Source of glory and wisdom and light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
you only are hidden by splendour of light.

Prayer of the Day:

Presider: Divine Companion,
All: **draw us to your heart**
where wisdom resides
and daily let us choose to follow
in your way, Amen

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Leader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66: 8-20
Led by Janet Johnston

Presider: Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

People: Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

Presider: For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**People: You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens up-on our backs.**

Presider: You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

People: I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows

Presider: Those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

People: I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

Presider: Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

**People: I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

Presider: If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

**People: but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

Presider: Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

All: Amen

Second Reading: By Richard Wagamese, What Comes from Spirit

We wake to a day of worry.
But it's a time to remember that we are Homo sapiens.
Translated literally to mean "wise man."
And even though we have the greatest capacity for cruelty of any creature in Creation we also have the staunchest capacity for love, mercy, compassion, acceptance, forgiveness, empathy and kindness.

We are built for survival because of those virtues. One man cannot change that. It will be a difficult time. But we were given knees on which to offer our humility to Creator and legs to stand strong in the face of adversity and hearts and minds and spirits wired for community. We have hands to reach out to one another. We have the inherent knowledge that we are one family. That is our saving grace.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying
People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Love Divine

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us your humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, you are all compassion,
pure, unbounded love impart;
visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come almighty to deliver,
let us all your grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more your temples leave.
We would always give you blessing,
serve you as your hosts above,
pray, and praise you without ceasing,
glory in your perfect love.

Gospel Reading: John 14: 15-21

In his final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages a life of love, following the ways of God and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

Presider: The Gospel of Christ.
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Hymn Continued

Finish then your new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see your great salvation,
perfect in eternity:
Changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
there to sing salvation's story
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Homily – Rev. Sharon Smith

Silent Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Presider: Moses said,
All: **Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God,**
the Lord is one.

Presider: And Jesus affirmed:
All: **Love the Lord your God with**
all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
And with all your strength.
This is the first and the great
commandment, the second is like it:
Love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no commandment greater
than these.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Confession:

Presider: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes all
and invites us to this table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,

All: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.**

Presider: Loving God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Passing of the Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The community, standing at our seats, greet one another saying or gesturing: 'Peace be with you".

COMMUNION

Preparing the Table: Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain
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. *(Refrain)*

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, world and deed,
may my living bring you glory*. (Refrain)*

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. *(Refrain)*

Prayer over the Gifts:

Presider: Blessed are you, O God,
All: **ruler of heaven and earth.**
Day by day you shower
us with blessings.
As you have raised us
to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts,
ready to praise you and
to respond to those in need,
through Jesus the Christ, Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer *(Supplementary Prayer 2)*

Presider: May God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to God.**
Presider: Let us offer thanks to God our Creator.
People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider: Holy God, Lover of creation,
we give you thanks and praise
for in the ocean of your steadfast love
you bear us and place the song
of your Spirit in our hearts.
When we turn from your love and defile the earth, you do not abandon us.

Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah, through prophets, sages, and saints in every age, to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new creation. Joining in the song of the universe we proclaim your glory singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words; you are holy Lord.

In God's name is coming the One whom we call blessed. Hosanna in the highest.
Praise and thanks to God.

Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words; you are holy Lord.

Presider: Gracious God,
in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ to share our fragile humanity.
Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection you open the path from brokenness to health, from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you.
Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life,
Jesus knew death was near.

His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends,
saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, and said "Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Presider: And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share the bread and cup of Christ's undying love,
and to proclaim our faith.

All: **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Presider: Breathe your Holy Spirit,
All: **the wisdom of the universe,**
upon these gifts that we bring to you:
this bread, this cup,
ourselves, our souls and bodies,
that we may be signs of your love for all the world and ministers of your transforming purpose.

Presider: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, Creator of all,
and we bless your holy name for ever.
People: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *(Sung)***:**

All: **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. Amen.

Fraction (Breaking the Bread):

Presider: Lord, we died with you on the cross.
All: Now we are raised to new life.

Presider: We were buried in the tomb.
All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Presider: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Invitation to the Table:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God.

Communion:

All people are welcome to receive Communion of one kind (wafers or fresh bread) at the base of the stairs, or Communion of one or both kinds at the Altar. We receive wine from a common cup. Gluten free wafer are available upon request.

Please sanitize your hands before receiving.

While the communion is being administered, we respectfully ask that you keep the silence.

Candle lighting during this time is welcomed.

Communion Music: A New Commandment

Refrain
A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.
By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another. *(Refrain)*

You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing. (*Refrain)*

True love is patient, nor arrogant nor boastful;
Love bears all things, love is eternal.
True love is patient, nor arrogant nor boastful;
Love bears all things, love is eternal. (*Refrain)*

Prayer after Communion:

Presider: Life-giving God,
All: **in the mystery of Christ's resurrection**
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of life
to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses
of Christ's resurrection,
so that we may show your
love to all the world,
through the risen Christ we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

Announcements – Vivian McGie

Presider: Glory to God,
All: **whose power, working in us,**
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God
from generation to generation,
in the church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing: Rev Sharon Smith

Sending Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when He has purged our stains,
He took his seat above;
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

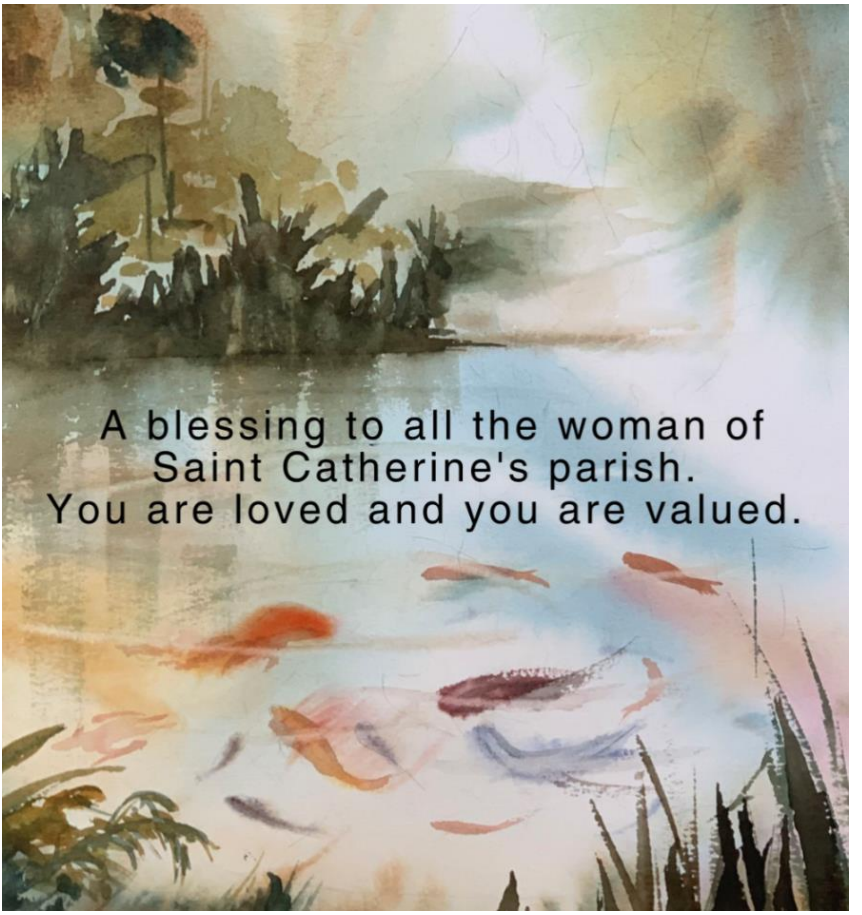
He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to this command,
and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice: again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus, the judge, shall come
and take his servants up
to their enteral home.
We soon shall bear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God, shall sound, rejoice!

Dismissal:

Presider: Go in peace to live a life of service
People: Thanks be to God.

Please join us after the service for coffee at the back of the church.



Thank you for ministering this morning:

Music:	Rob Gloor & Choir
Greeters:	Lori Burns and Tony Dodd
Altar Guild:	Vivian McGie
Readers:	**1)**John Luccock **2)** Janet Johnston
Intercessor:	Lynn Spence (written by Deborah Foster)
Eucharistic Ministers:	Marthe Duncombe. Tony Dodd Lynn Spence
Livestream:	Chris Wensley
Coffee Group:	Penny Zuk, Gillian Holland

St. Catherine's Community
Pop-Up Garden

Do you love to garden?

Wish you had more space for vegetables or flowers?

This summer we will have nine boxes size 2' by 6' ready for planting. Adopt a box for $40

For further information please contact:
Scadmin@shaw.ca

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