

Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church
Open to All

Season of Creation V

Peace with Creation



SEEDS OF FAITH

Hybrid Worship
5 October 2025

Minister: Rev. Suzanna Bates

Music: Pat Armstrong with John Bullas

We acknowledge these lands upon which we worship are the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

*Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Words for Worship

Words of response are in bold & italics

Prelude:

Gathering

Singing Bowl

The singing bowl is played to awaken us to the presence of God in this sacred space and gathering and to centre us in the embrace of the Spirit.

Call to Worship

Acknowledging the Land

From before recorded time, the First Peoples of the Snuneymuxw Nation cared for this Land.

We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Island and honour those who have cared for it.

We acknowledge the Elders and community members who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.

***We ask God's blessing on those who continue
to work for the healing and restoration of this Land
and all Communities who live here.***

Lighting the Candle

We gather this morning in the love and light of the Creator, whose justice and peace gives light to our paths and hope in our lives! In the light of this candle, we rejoice, and the hope of our hearts is rekindled this day.

We are here.

God is here.

This place is sacred ground.

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts

MV #12

¹Come 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.

²Come 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.

³Come 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.

⁴Come 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.

⁵Come 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.

Prayer of Reconciliation

Magnificent mystery, in a world full of wonder,
where humankind feels small amidst the vastness of a universe unknown
and eternally unknowable.

We pause, giving thanks for all that we are and have.

***We are eternally Loved, embraced by the Creative Force,
felt through our feet, expressed in our sighs and burning in our
hearts at the sight of a sunset, or tiny drop of dew.***

God, understood in our struggles and joys,
our hidden places of fear, sorrow, and shame,
in disappointment and delight, present in our very essence.

***We recognise our failings,
actions regretted,
words spoken harshly,
impulses poorly controlled,
harm caused.***

We fail to show Love, and we are sorry.

May God grant us forgiveness and release.

Met with truths of reality, we explore,
trying to understand, desiring to embrace
and longing to heal.

***Following the words and example of Jesus,
we open our senses to encounter God,
in every individual,
every living thing,
giving thanks for all that we are,
and all that we can be,
in Jesus' name, Amen.***

Hymn: All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded

VU #654

¹All my hope is firmly grounded
in our great and living Lord;
who, whenever I most need him,
never fails to keep his word.
God I must wholly trust,
God the ever good and just.

²Tell me, who can trust our nature,
humans weak, and insecure?
Which of all the airy castles
can the hurricane endure?
Built on sand, naught can stand
by our earthly wisdom planned.

³But in every time and season,
out of love's abundant store,
God sustains the whole creation,
fount of life forevermore.
We who share earth and air
count on God's unfailing care.

⁴Thank, O thank, our great Creator,
through God's only Son this day;
God alone, the heavenly potter,
made us out of earth and clay.
Quick to heed, strong in deed,
God shall all the people feed.

Prayer Before the Reading of Scriptures

Holy Breath, living Spirit, open our senses to perceive your loving
presence and your will so we have a fresh understanding of what you
would have us glean from your word. Amen.

Psalm 137: By the Rivers of Babylon

(VU #858)

[Refrain]

By the rivers of Babylon, there we wept.

By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept
when we remembered Zion.

***There on the willows we hung up our harps
when our captors asked us for songs***

Our tormentors called for entertainment, saying,
"Sing us one of the sons of Zion!" [R]

How could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my hands wither!

Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth

if I do not remember you,

if I do not set Jerusalem above by highest joy. [R]

Scripture Reading:

Lamentations 1:1–6

The lonely city grieves.

Reader: Nancy Hetherington Peirce

(New revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become subject to forced labor. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers, she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations; she finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. Her foes have become the masters; her enemies prosper because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

This is God's Word.

We open our hearts to this Word today!

Gospel Reading:

As is your custom, please stand or sit for the reading of the gospel.

Reader: Nancy Hetherington Peirce

God be with you.

And also with you

The Good News of Jesus the Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

Luke 17:5–10

Faith as a mustard seed

(The Message)

The apostles came up and said to Jesus, "Give us more faith." But he said, "You don't need *more* faith. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a mustard seed, you could say

to this sycamore tree, 'Go jump in the lake,' and it would do it. "Suppose one of you has a servant who comes in from plowing the field or tending the sheep. Would you take his coat, set the table, and say, 'Sit down and eat'? Wouldn't you be more likely to say, 'Prepare dinner; change your clothes and wait table for me until I've finished my coffee; then go to the kitchen and have your supper'? Does the servant get special thanks for doing what's expected of him? It's the same with you. When you've done everything expected of you, be matter-of-fact and say, 'The work is done. What we were told to do, we did.'"

This is the Gospel of Christ

We open our hearts to Good News!

Word: Seeds of Faith

Hymn: Like a River of Tears

MV #98

¹Like a river of tears your love pours upon us;
like a sunshine of blessing your grace will sustain us;
like a star-studded sky your spirit shines o'er us,
renewing our spirits with courage and faith.

²Like a bird in free flight by windows around us;
like a wind in the forest that breathes life among us;
like a phoenix that's rising from ashes around us,
renewing our spirits with vision and grace.

³Like a pillar of cloud you promise to guide us;
like a bright fiery bush you come to speak to us;
like a calm cooling breeze your spirit breathes in us,
renewing our spirits with loving embrace.

⁴Like a lover's caress your spirit revives us;
like a song of the soul you come to be with us;
like a prayer of the heart you heal and restore us,
renewing our spirits, the future to face.

Season of Creation 2025 Prayer

Creator God, let there be peace on earth - one world -
living in harmony, caring for one another,
delighting in the wonders around us, tending your creation.

Let there be peace on earth,

and yet...

ours is a world at war,
a world of enmity and hatred,

a world of greed and destruction,
a world of hunger and homelessness.

God, forgive us.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with you and me -
our words and actions,
our priorities and passions,
our love for our neighbours nearby and far away,
our care for land and air and sea.

God, help us.

Let there be peace on earth - the peace that was meant to be:
a world of justice and joy,
a world of fairness and respect,
a world of kindness and compassion,
a world of plenty for all.

Creator God, for this we pray, amen.

Life and Work of the Church

Prayers of the People

We pray to our God,

Hear our prayers.

Tim Leadem

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

Offering

**Holy One, whose breath is our life and whose grace is our hope,
receive the gifts we offer. Bless them that they may be a
blessing, - faith lived out, hope lived, and love given for this
world. Amen.**

Hymn: My Soul Cries Out

MV #120

¹My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

[Refrain]

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

²Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. [R]

³From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears,
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. [R]

⁴Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. [R]

Blessing & Sending

May the God who weeps with the wounded earth surround you with the comfort of the wind through the cedar trees.

May your tears, like the early rains, water the soil of hope and awaken new life.

May your hands be strong like the hands of the potter, shaping justice, peace, and healing in all you do.

And may the blessing of the Creator, the Compassionate Christ, and the Spirit who dances through creation go with you through every island path, mountain trail, and sea crossing, now and always.

Amen.

Go now, in peace with creation—

And may the blessing of the Creator,
the Christ, and the Spirit surround you and all living things,
now and for evermore

Amen!

To the glory of God, and the care of creation, amen.

Postlude:
