

Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church
Open to All

Creative Worship
for a Season of Stewardship



Hybrid Worship
16 November 2025

Minister: Rev. Suzanna Bates
Music Director: Dorothy Dittrich

*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: Praise to the Lord Almighty

*Stralsund Gesangbuch,
Joachim Neander (1665, 1680)*

Gathering

Call to Worship

Can you imagine unrestricted love?
Free and bold, wild and true, the kind of love that changes you?
Can you imagine a home—safe and bright,
with impromptu dancing, meals around table,
and laughter late into the night?
Can you imagine faith like a compass
that guides the way you shop and vote, the way you love and hope;
that asks questions and yet still believes, even despite uncertainty?
Can you imagine a world where trees, bees, and all living things
grow wild and free?
Where peace is the narrative and hope the currency?
A world where news stories are testimonies and hunger is for learning?
Can you imagine?

Yes, we can imagine.

Today in worship, dare to dream. Dare to imagine what could be.
And pay attention, for God is here, in wandering thoughts,
hopes and prayers.

Let us worship holy God, the great Unbound Love.

Acknowledging the Land

As we gather to worship together, let us respectfully pause to remember
we live and work and worship on lands that are the unceded territory of
the original peoples, the Snuneymuxw First Nation.
May we live with respect on the land and live in peace and friendship
with all its people.

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

Lighting the Candle

We are here.

God is here.

This place is sacred ground.

Hymn: When Long Before Time

¹When long before time and the worlds were begun,
When there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
And all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
And even our Maker had only a dream...

²...the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
And light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
And with its first birth-cries creation was born,
And creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

³The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
Their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word,
The Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
The choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

⁴Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,
Its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
The Singer comes to us to sing it again,
Our God-Is-with-Us in the world now as then.

⁵The Light has returned as it came once before,
The Song of the Lord is our own song once more;
So let us all sing with one heart and one voice
The Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

⁶To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
To you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
To you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
Be glory for ever, through life and through death."

Prayer for Reconciliation

God of Grace, you invite us to dream of a better world,

But instead, we bury our heads in the sand.

We are afraid to recognize how much must change.

***We are afraid, because if we know the truth,
then don't we have a job to do?***

So instead, more often than not, we maintain the status quo.

We passively allow things to stay the same.

We don't speak out; we don't imagine a new day.

***We don't take time to long for and dream of a world without
racism, sexism, bigotry, or shame.***

Instead, we allow ourselves to believe that some things will never change.

Forgive us. Show us the way. Teach us to dream.

Teach us to imagine again.

Humbly we pray. Amen.

VU #248

Mandala Mosaic: Reimagine

Affirmation of Faith

***We believe in God the Creator,
who, like a painter with a canvas,
imagined creation and breathed it into being.
We believe in Jesus, who many years later,
walked this hurting world
and showed us a new way to love.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who prods us and pulls us,
leads us and guides us, carries us
and loves us into new life, day after day.
And we believe in the power of imagination,
a gift from God that allows us to dream dreams, create anew,
start over, try again and live lives of hope.
So, in response, together, as God's church, we dare to dream.
We strive to love.
We try to imagine a new day.
And we walk together, all with God's help. Amen.***

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

VU #375

[Refrain]

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,

blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,

stir me from placidness,

Wind, Wind on the sea.

¹You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. [R]

²You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. [R]

³You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. [R]

⁴You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. [R]

Prayer Before the Reading of Scripture

Holy God, we want to see what you see.
We want to see what you see, but we stumble through roadblocks of bias
and narrow perspective, fear and limited information.
We are too small to imagine the type of love and beauty you can sow.
Blow the dust out of our ears.
Thaw out the frozen parts of our hearts.
Tell the logical arguments we form about what will and will not work to
take a backseat. And as you do, breathe fresh air into our bodies and fill
our minds with endless possibilities. We want to see what you see.
We want to reimagine this life we're living. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Reader: Paddy Waymark

Leviticus 19: 9-10; 25: 8-12 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)
The Year of Jubilee!

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very
edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not
strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you
shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so
that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you
shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh
month—on the Day of Atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded
throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and you
shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a
Jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and
every one of you to your family. That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee for you:
you shall not sow or reap the aftergrowth or harvest the unpruned
vines. For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the
field itself produces.

This is God's Word.

We open our hearts to this Word today!

Gospel Reading

Reader: Paddy Waymark

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

God be with you.

And also with you

The Good News of Jesus the Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Christ Jesus

Mark 12: 38-44

(The Message)

The widow's offering

Jesus continued teaching. "Watch out for the religion scholars. They love
to walk around in academic gowns, preening in the radiance of public
flattery, basking in prominent positions, sitting at the head table at every
church function. And all the time they are exploiting the weak and helpless.
The longer their prayers, the worse they get. But they'll pay for it in the
end."

Sitting across from the offering box, he was observing how the crowd
tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large
contributions. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins—a
measly two cents. Jesus called his disciples over and said, "The truth is
that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put
together. All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave
extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all."

This is the Gospel of Christ.

We open our hearts to Good news today!

Word: Reimagining

Hymn: I Am The Dream

MV #106

¹I am the dream and you the dreamer.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in ev'ry silence.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.

²I am the bell and you the silence.
You are the yearning I cannot curtail.
I am the blest and you the blessing.
You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.

³You are the word and I the echo.
You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

Offering

Offertory Response: We Give Thee But Thine Own

VU #543

¹We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be:
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O God, from thee.

²May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first-fruits give.

Dedication for the Offering

Jesus of Nazareth, in scripture we hear of a woman who gave her last coin away. You pointed her out, but you did not say, "Go and do likewise."
So, we cannot help but wonder - did you point her out to ask,
"Why does this one have so little when others have so much?"
Did you point her out to help us see the injustice that led to her suffering?
Maybe.

*So today, for her, and for you, and for every person
who cannot afford to give to God and put food on the table,
we offer our gifts.*

We pray that you would use them for your good.

Right what is wrong.

Balance the systems of injustice.

*Use these gifts to build the world that we can only imagine
but you can bring forth.*

In hope we pray, Amen.

Life & Work of the Church

Prayers of the People

Susan Brockley

Creator,

Hear our prayer.

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.

Hymn: Live Into Hope

VU #699

¹Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!

²Live into hope the blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.

³Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

⁴Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace

Sending & Blessing

Go now, inspired by the extravagant love of God.
Live generously, with open hands,
loving one another as if your lives depended on it.
Be good stewards of the gifts you have received,
so that God may be glorified in all that you say and do.

And may the abundant love of God surround you,
may the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ sustain you,
and may the constant presence of the Holy Spirit
inspire and encourage you in every good deed and word. Amen.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also, with you.

Postlude: O Laughing Light *Poitiers Antiphoner 1746 (S. Dunstan lyrics 1985)*
