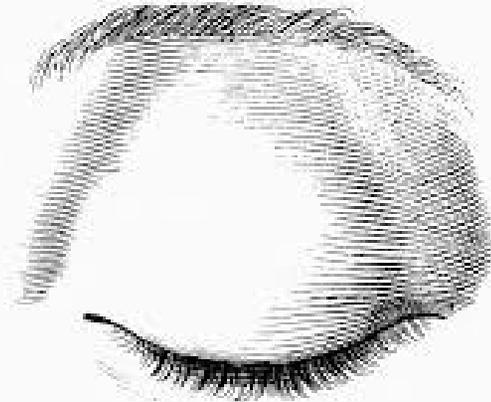


Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church
Open to All



*Jesus touched the eyes of the blind man,
saying to him go and wash
in the pool of Siloam.
Then he washed
and came back able to see.*

John 9: 6-7

HYBRID WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Lent
15 March 2026
Minister: Mona Smart
Music: Frances Armstrong

We acknowledge that 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 Words

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, we continue to take up this season's invitation to fully open our hearts to the Word and love of God.

To fully enter into the Lenten journey is to become aware of what separates us from the Holy to whom we belong, that we may be drawn into the very heart of all that is Holy.

In today's gospel story from John, Jesus restores a blind man's sight. Through Jesus, the man was touched by God's grace. Grace always leaves its holy mark on the body in ways that are sometimes visible and sometimes invisible.

Acknowledgement of the Land

We prayerfully acknowledge with thanksgiving that we gather on the unceded territories of the Snuneymuxw people. Gracious God, help us to seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based in honour and respect. Amen.

Call to Worship or The Collect

Contemporary Anglican Collects, 2019

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

And also with you.

Discerner of hearts,
you look beneath our outward appearance
and see your image in each of us.

***Banish in us the blindness
that prevents us from recognizing truth,
so we may see the world through your eyes,
and with the compassion of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Lighting of Candle *(candle is lit)*

United Church Gatherings Resource

We light the Christ Candle fully aware of our vulnerability and need.

The light of Christ's love breaks in to fill our lives with love.
Come, light of Christ, come into our lives, make us one in heart and mind.

Opening Hymn: O Praise the Gracious Power

¹O praise the gracious power
that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith
all strangers far and near.

Refrain:

We praise you, Christ!
Your cross has made us one!

²O praise persistent truth
that opens fisted minds
and eases from their anxious clutch
the prejudice that blinds: R

³O praise inclusive love,
encircling every race,
oblivious to gender, wealth,
to social rank or place: R

⁴O praise the word of faith
that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ,
our rock and cornerstone: R

⁵O praise the tide of grace
that laps at every shore
with visions of a world at peace,
no longer bled by war: R

⁶O praise the power, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these,
O praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: R

⁷O praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: R

Prayer of Forgiveness

adapted from UCC, Celebrate God's Presence

We acknowledge our errors and transgressions, our anxieties and fears. We do this so that we may come to better know ourselves, grow in spiritual strength and move toward our own transformation. Let us pray, putting our trust in the accepting grace and the transforming love of Christ.

VU #397

Prayer for Illumination and Grace *adapted from UCC, Celebrate God's Presence*

God, you challenge us but also encourage us.

God, you confront us also accept us.

God you know us completely to bestow all your pardon, peace, and love on us.

Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Prayer Before the Reading of Scripture

ACC & UCC Sources

O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love.

Psalm 23 *(sung refrain)*

VU #749

Refrain: My shepherd is the Lord; nothing indeed shall I want.

God is my shepherd,

There is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

You lead me beside peaceful waters;

You revive my spirit,

You guide me in right pathways for your name's sake. R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,

Your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies.,

You anoint mt head with oil, my cup is overflowing,

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-1 (NRSV)

Reader: Nancy Hetherington Peirce

David Anointed as King

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified

Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 9: 1-17 (NRSV) Reader: Nancy Hetherington Peirce
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 according to John

Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread

it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Thanks be to God

Word: Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Hymn of Response: Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

VU #368

¹Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine.
Voice of God and inward light,
wake my Spirit, clear my sight.

²Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine.
Kindle every high desire,
purify me with your fire.

³Holy Spirit, power divine,
fill and nerve this will of mine.
Boldly may I always live,
bravely serve, and gladly give.

⁴Holy Spirit, law divine,
reign within this soul of mine.
Be my law, and I shall be
firmly bound, for ever free.

⁵Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine.
Speak to calm this tossing sea,
grant me your tranquillity.

⁶Holy Spirit, joy divine,
gladden now this heart of mine.
In the desert ways I sing;
spring, O living water, spring!

Life & Work of the Church

Prayers of the People

Loving God,

Hear our Prayers.

Betty Schultze

Lords Prayer *(to be sung)*

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.***

Amen.

Offering *(offering now to be collected)*

Offering Prayer

ACC, Alternative Prayer over Gifts

***God our provider, you nourish us with bread and with words of
grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive
from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Closing Hymn: God Be with You Till We Meet Again

VU #423

¹God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

²God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

³God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.

⁴God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Blessing & Sending

adapted from ACC Book of Alternative Services

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace help us to work every size and kind of goodness through Jesus Christ. The Lord's grace shines on us as we go out to live our call in the world.

Postlude
