

Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church
Open to All



*The world needs more people who wave at crows,
Thank the rivers and talk to cats like equals.*

Hybrid Worship
Creation 2
16th after Pentecost
13 September 2026

Rev. Deborah van der Goes
Music: Francis 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

Welcome

Land acknowledgement

*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*

Let us pray together.

*God, by whatever name we call You...
however we experience You in our individual lives,
we come today ready to celebrate Your Presence.*

As we gather together, open our hearts to notice your voice.

*In the song of birds... in the rustle of leaves...
in the warmth of the sun*

in the wetness of the rain.

In the wisdom of other peoples and cultures.

In our own longing for connection and Oneness.

Thank you for this time of prayer, reflection and learning.

We come ready and grateful to receive You.

Confession and Forgiveness

Before God, with the people of God, I admit my fears and failings...
the way I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world

*May God forgive you; Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.*

*Before God, with the people of God, we confess our fears and
failings. The ways we wound our lives, the lives of others,
and the life of the world.*

May God forgive you; Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

*With the whole church, We affirm that we are made in God's
image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.*

*With people everywhere, We affirm God's goodness at the heart
of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.*

With all creation,

*We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life: the unfolding
purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.
Amen.*

Opening Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful

[Refrain]

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

¹Each radiant flower that opens,
each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their lively wings. [R]

²The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruit in the garden,
God made them every one. [R]

³The rocky mountain splendour,
the loon's wild, haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall. [R]

⁴God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is the Creator,
who has made all things well. [R]

The Collect – Prayer of the Day (Adapted fr Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis)

Ever living Creator God, you bring forth and sustain every living thing;
help us grow in compassion and care for the multitude of your creatures,
that we may see them as brothers and sisters that sing your never-
ending praise. Through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and guide, who with
you and the Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.”

Amen.

Preparation for a participatory re-telling of Scripture

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Storyteller: Tim Leadem

“The Beginning”

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth
was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and
the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

CP #416

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the
light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God
called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was
evening, and there was morning — Day 1.

And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water
from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the
vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault
“sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning —Day 2.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and
let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,”
and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.
Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and
trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various
kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed
according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to
their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and
there was morning—Day 3

And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the
day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and
days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light
on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater
light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also
made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the
earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.
And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was
morning—Day 4.

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly
above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great
creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and
that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird
according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them
and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas,
and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there
was morning—Day 5.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their
kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the
wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild
animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and
all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And
God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—Day 6.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Hymn: God of the Sparrow

CP #31

¹God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

²God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

³God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

⁴God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

⁵God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

⁶God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Gospel Readings

Reader: Deborah van der Goes

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 John

Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation: Halle, Halle
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah**

VU #958

John 1:1-5

“The Word Became Flesh”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Good News of Jesus the Christ according to John

Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation: Halle, Halle
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah**

VU #958

Sermon: “The Specialist Creatures”

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O people of God,

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

***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 greatest commandment.

The second is like it:

Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no greater commandment than these.

Life & Work of the Church

Prayers of the People

Loving God,

Hear our Prayers.

Catherine Woodward

Lords Prayer *(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.***

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

*(You are invited to turn to those directly around you and share Christ's peace.
Those on Zoom, please unmute and share with one another)*

Offering

(offering now to be collected. quiet music when collected bring forward)

Offering Prayer

CP #669

Praise God the Source of life and birth,

Praise God the Word, who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.

All Glory, honour to God's name.

Holy Communion

Liturgy for the Islands and Inlets Anglican Church

Assistants: Rob and Susan Brockley

Invitation

Here is the table of the Lord.

We joyfully gather at the Lord's table, open to all.

The Great Thanksgiving

God is here

The Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts and minds.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Creator, with wit and wisdom you formed the universe. In expectation, your Spirit brooded over all: the midwife of transformation. At your Word, the skies, the seas, the lands and all life came to be. In you, all created things shared life with one another. In ceremony and song, dance and art, these relationships were portrayed and honoured by the first peoples of these Islands and Inlets. The plants, the cedars, the creatures of forest, sea and air revealed your wonder and majesty. When we turned from you, connections were broken and creation suffered. Still, you continued to bring light from night, freedom from slavery, and life from death. Therefore, together with our ancestors in faith and with your beloved creation we sing:

Sanctus:

MV #203

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

We praise you, Source of all, for the living Word: Jesus Born in poverty; a child refugee, a worker with his hands. He gathered disciples and taught and healed the people. He freely shared our sorrow, joy, and pain. In vulnerability, he showed power over sin and triumphed over death. On the night before Jesus died, he feasted with his companions. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this to remember me."

After supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to his companions saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and the world for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me

Entering into the mystery of faith we call:

Come Source of life.

Come, transforming Word.

Come, Creator Spirit.

With his sacred presence unbounded by space and time, we offer to you this bread and cup. Send your Breath of Life, like wind, blowing where it will, north, east, south and west. May your Spirit brood over these gifts and all who feast at this table offering a foretaste of the eternal feast to come.

May all who share your abundant gifts be incorporated as one body and one holy people, joined in the offering of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection for the reconciliation of all things. Reveal the unity of your Church and the mystery of our communion with our holy forebears and those yet to be born, that we may be guided in faith and walk gently on the earth. Glory and honour to you Triune God, dynamic of love, complete and perfect unity, now, and in all ages. ***Amen.***

Breaking of the Bread

Loving God,

as we break bread and share the cup,

we give thanks for the bread and the wine,

fruits of your earth and of our labour.

We commit ourselves to your service

and that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

We offer you, O God, this bread and this wine.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,

That all who eat and drink at this table

And all the tables of the world

may be one body, one holy people

Communion is Shared

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,

***May our participation in these sacramental gifts transform us
that we may live lives of thanksgiving and be faithful to your
will.***

Closing Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CP #425

¹Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,

God of glory, Lord of love;

hearts unfold like flowers before thee,

opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

drive the dark of doubt away;

giver of immortal gladness,

fill us with the light of day.

²All thy works with joy surround thee,

earth and heaven reflect thy rays,

stars and angels sing around thee,

center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

flowery meadow, flashing sea,

chanting bird and flowing fountain

call us to rejoice in thee.

³Thou art giving and forgiving,

ever blessing, ever blest,

well-spring of the joy of living,

ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father and our Mother,

all who live in love are thine;

teach us how to love each other,

lift us to the joy divine.

Blessing For Here and at Home

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy

you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

May we who seek to listen to the Great Spirit

trust in your power to restore all things,

who gives life to all creation. Amen.

Postlude