

# Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church  
Open to All

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



## Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020

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\* Please stand if you are able

**VU** is Voices United Hymn Book

**Bold print in bulletin – congregation**

**MV** is More Voices Hymn Book

## **We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence**

### ***All Are Welcome To Worship Together***

We welcome you, whoever and wherever you are, to join us on a journey. We strive to accept each other as we are and welcome the ministry and participation of all persons regardless of age, gender identity, health, race, sexual orientation, differing abilities, religious or ethnic background or economic circumstance. We hope that in all that we do, in our worship and community life, that the Creator's unconditional love is experienced. We do this trusting The Creator is with us on the journey.

**Please enter in silence**

### **Words of Welcome**

*The bell is sounded three times*

From our homes you draw us to this sacred time and space, O Holy One. We come to dwell in your presence, for you are the source of our being.

*Silence*

God calls us to renew ourselves and our life's purpose, as we gather with others who are searching for meaning. Let us be in silence together.

*J Huggett*

*Silence*

### **Preparing the Space:**

*The candle is lit, the water is poured, & the table is set.*

### **\*Call to Worship:**

*Pitt Street Uniting Church*

One: Out of nothingness we came through birth into life

**All: with the Spirit of God within us.**

One: From the life of God the universe unfolded into being

**All: with the Spirit of God within it.**

One: From the heart of God creation goes on till the end of time

**All: with the Spirit of God within it... and with our spirit within it.**

One: Let us embrace the God who enfolds us

**All: as we gather to worship God.**

### **\*Hymn:**

***Breathe On Me, Breath Of God***

**VU #382**

## We Listen to the Word

**Reader:** By the gift of your Spirit, calm and quiet our souls that we may hear your Word today and be lifted up to walk with you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

**First Reading:**                    *Isaiah 58:6-12*

### **Psalm 51**

*Adapted from The Psalter*

Have mercy, tender God, forget that I defied you.

Wash away my sin, cleanse me from my guilt.

**I know my evil well, it stares me in the face,  
Evil done to you alone before your very eyes.**

How right your condemnation! Your verdict is clearly just.

You see me for what I am: frail, a sinner.

**You love those centered in truth; teach me your hidden wisdom.**

**Wash me with fresh water, wash me bright and clean.**

Fill me with happy songs! Let the bones you bruised now dance,

Shut your eyes to my sin, make my guilt disappear.

**Creator, reshape my heart, God, steady my spirit.**

**Do not cast me aside stripped of your holy spirit.**

Save me, bring back my joy, support me, strengthen my will,

Then I will teach your way and sinners will turn to you.

**Help me, stop my tears, and I will sing your goodness.**

**Lord, give me words and I will shout your praise.**

**Second Reading:**    *2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:** (stand or sit as is your custom)

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you**

One: The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise be to Jesus Christ**

**Reflection:**    **Fertilizer**

**\*Hymn:**    *Long Before the Night*

**VU #282 3**

## Service of the Ashes

O Source of life and love, torn by desires to sit back  
and to enjoy the beauty of the world -  
to savour the blue skies and gentle days -  
and by desires to recast the world and to fight its evils -  
to save the world...

*B Southworth*

**Torn by all those things that hurt and confuse  
and make no sense amid beauty -  
yet supported by all those things that heal and hold us -  
smiles, kisses, mountain vistas and gentle waves, warm words...**

We live in mystery.

We live torn apart at times: so much glory, so much pain.

**We live in faith: faith in ourselves and each other, faith that we can  
create bonds of the spirit that proclaim we are not alone.**

We have much health within us;

we can live through the heartache to new life.

**So, for the grace of the world and all the tumble, too,  
this day we give thanks...**

*Silence*

**The Letting Go:** In the midst of the raw beauty of life, God gifts us with  
open hands and opportunities to unburden ourselves.

*Paper and pencils are available if you would like to write down  
what you would like to release. You are invited to bring your papers  
forward to burn.*

**Song:**

**Mercy**

*The Brilliance*

We lay down what is past...

**We lay down what is past and look to the future.**

**We take into our daily life signs of hope and healing.**

**We reach beyond ourselves to share the lives of others  
and touch a wider world.**

**The Ashes:**

Ash Wednesday invites us to come back to earth.

To wonder at the gift of life, my life, our life;

life with the earth, the shared body of our existence.

These ashes were once trees and shrubs,  
and places where life was lived to its fullest.

Once they were full of life.

Now they are black and grey.

Dry. Lifeless.

But mixed with the waters of our baptism make good fertiliser:  
it will help the seeds of the gospel take deeper root in us  
and bring forth the fruits, the harvest of justice, peace, and generosity.

These are ashes worth wearing.

May we accept this gift. And be blessed.  
And be assured we will be different at the end of this season.  
For from the burnt ashes will spring the green shoot of life  
and the purple flower of attentiveness to God.

### **Blessing the Ashes:**

May these ashes be blessed.

**May they be for us a symbol of our return to the earth.**

**May we be blessed.**

**May we be earthed in your everlasting love,  
as forgiven and forgiving people.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

*You are invited to come forward for the imposition of ashes and pray in  
silence. Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.*

**Song:**

***Dust We Are***

The Brilliance

## **We Celebrate Communion**

**Invitation to Eucharist:** As we prepare this feast, we remember that this is not our table or the table of a particular denomination. This is the table of Jesus Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All are welcome to come and be nourished; it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

### **Holy Eucharist**

#### **\*Invitation to Thanksgiving:**

One: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them to God**

One: Let us give thanks to God most high

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

#### **Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:**

For the love we name Creativity God, and all that is. **For the one we name Jesus and his message of peace, justice and inclusiveness that is the realm of God.** For the renewing strength and freedom of the Spirit always present on the breath of life. **We give thanks for the presentness of God in the midst of life.**

We remember the stories... how Jesus gathered with friends and foes to tell them of a re-imagined way of living and being. A way that did not conform to the standards of a system of governance that suppressed people until starvation and deprivation resulted in death. (*S Weinberg*)  
**In this way, the issues of life and death, justice and injustice, conflict and peace, goodness and evil were discussed and made real to ordinary people.**

**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 heav'n, creation sings your praise.  
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!**

So in our time and in this place, with today's issues before us, let us continue the tradition: to break bread together. We remember what that tradition says...

At the end of a journey, among friends, gathered round a table...

**Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it: 'This bread is broken, as my body will be'. And he handed it to his friends, and invited them to eat, saying: 'Remember all that I have been to you'.**

Then Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it, and gave it to his friends: **'This wine is poured out as my life will be. As you drink give thanks for all I have given.'**

Bread... the very stuff of life, in which is gathered up warm sun, rich earth, gentle rain, human labour and knowledge and skill. Wine... fruit of the vine, nurtured, tended, harvested, and pressed out for us to drink.

**Acclamation:**

**MV#204**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Bless these gifts with the presence of the Holy Spirit and bless us who have gathered here out of love for you, and strengthen us by these gifts to serve you in the world and share your love with everyone we meet. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are your, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **Breaking the Bread:**

We break this bread,

**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

*Lay Assistants please come forward.*

The gifts of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

*We have bread, wafers, and gluten free wafers available (please indicate if you would like a wafer or gluten free), as well as the chalice of wine on the left and cups of wine, juice and water on the right. If you would like a blessing, please indicate so by crossing your arms over your chest.*

**Communion Hymn: *Let Us Break Bread Together***

**VU #480**

### **\*Prayer after Communion:**

God is with us and within us.

The Word is in our midst,

seen as forgiveness

known as costly love.

### **\*Sharing The Peace**

The peace of God is here... to stay.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.*

**\*Glory to God 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.**

*Please join hands or elbows with your neighbors  
across the aisle for the blessing*

### **\*Words of Blessing**

*J Huggett*

Once-burnt and darkened hills now bloom in life of green and gold.

Once-starving hearts now fill with love more than enough to hold us

in divine embrace. Once-thirsty souls now overflow into the rivers of

God's grace. The blessing of the God of life, love and grace be with

you always.

**Amen. May it be so.**

### **Musical Postlude:**

*Please remain seated to reflect on the worship service or leave quietly*

*This service is over and our service begins.*

*This Order of Service was created with resources from Res A E Hunt of the Uniting Church in Australia.*

## Song Lyrics

### **Mercy:**

When I think of God's great love  
I think of Noah's time  
When love was not enough  
And man was forced to die  
This God, He sent the flood  
To kill the race despised  
The children swept away  
I hear a mother's cry

(Chorus) Mercy  
Lord have mercy  
Mercy on me  
Every soul is searching for You  
Won't You save us?  
Grant us peace

Oh distant God above  
Why do You make us blind?  
With eyes that cannot see  
We seek but do not find  
And if You are so near  
Why are You standing by?  
When peace has been long lost  
Please hear Your children cry

(chorus)

Kyrie, eleison Eleison  
Kyrie, eleison Kyrie, Kyrie, Eleison

### **Dust We Are:**

From dust we've come  
And dust we are  
And shall return

(chorus) Be still my soul  
And let it go  
Just let it go  
Glory to God  
Glory to God  
In the highest  
Glory to God  
Glory to God  
In the highest

Naked we came  
And shall return  
Into the grave

(chorus)

Be still my soul  
Lord, make me whole  
(repeat)

Glory to God