

# Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church  
Open to All



Hybrid Church  
21 June 2026  
“Fourth Sunday of Pentecost”  
National Indigenous Day of Prayer

*Rev. Sally Bullas*  
*Musician: Frances Armstrong*

*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

#### 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.***

#### Centering & Stillness

*Richard Wagames, One Story, One Son*

“There is enough for everyone on this earth. There always was. When you gaze up at the sky on a starry night, that’s what we need to remember.”

*(invitation to sit in silence)*

#### Introit: **Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works**

**VU #308**

<sup>1</sup>Many and great, O God, are your works,  
Maker of earth and sky.

Your hands have set the heavens with stars,  
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;  
deep seas obey your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Grant us communion with you,  
O star abiding one.

Come unto us and dwell with us,  
with you are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end,  
eternal life with you.

#### Opening Words and Prayer of Approach

Let us pray together. God, by whatever name we call You, and how ever 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 and the gentle 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 Your Word. Amen.***

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Steve Gamaas-Holmes, [worshipwords.co.uk](http://worshipwords.co.uk)

I am the wick

**You are the flame**

I am the silence

**You are the presence**

I am the space

**You are the stillness**

I do not know how to pray as I ought

**But I hold still and you pray in me.**

I am the seen

**You are the rest**

*(Christ Candle is lit)*

## Prayer of Confession and Affirmation

Before God, with the people of God, I admit to my fears and failings.  
To 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 to our fears and failings. To 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.**

## Hymn: O Beautiful Gaia

[Refrain]

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.

O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

<sup>1</sup>Soil yielding its harvest,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Soil yielding its harvest,

calling us on. [R]

<sup>2</sup>Waves crashing on granite,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Waves crashing on granite,

calling us on. [R]

<sup>3</sup>Pine bending in windstorm,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Pine bending in windstorm,

calling us on. [R]

<sup>4</sup>Loon nesting in marshland,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Loon nesting in marshland,

calling us on. [R]

## Passing of the Peace

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

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

## Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21 (NRSV)

Reader: Don Butt

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the

MV #41

boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

This is the Word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

Reader: Don Butt

*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 Matthew

**Glory to you, Christ Jesus.**

### **Matthew 10:24-39**

“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection: “Resilience With Faith”**

### **Hymn: Each Blade of Grass**

**MV #37**

<sup>1</sup>Each blade of grass, ev’ry wing that soars,  
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,  
make full the circle of God.

Each laughing child, ev’ry gentle eye,  
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,  
make full the circle of God.

<sup>2</sup>Each silent paw, ev’ry rounded stone,  
the buzz that echoes from a honey’d comb,  
make full the circle of God.

Each fire-brimmed star, ev’ry out-stretched hand,  
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,  
make full the circle of God.

<sup>3</sup>Each icy peak, ev’ry patterned shell,  
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,  
make full the circle of God.

Each cosmic hue, ev’ry creature’s way,  
all form the beauty of this vast array,  
making full the circle of God.

### **Offering**

#### **Doxology (sung)**

**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.

#### **Offering Prayer**

God of abundance, help us to spend these gifts wisely, share our love bravely and use our hands, or gifts, for the good of all.

#### **Prayers of the People**

Susan Brockley

One: Creator

**All: Hear Our Prayers**

**The Prayer of Jesus (sung)**  
**Our Father in heaven,**

**VU #959**

**hallowed be your name, your Kin-dom 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 Kin-dom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Hymn: Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

**VU #382**

<sup>1</sup>Breathe on me, breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

<sup>2</sup>Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine,  
to do and to endure.

<sup>3</sup>Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

<sup>4</sup>Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die;  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

**Blessing**

*Traditional Celtic Blessing*

“Deep peace of the running wave to you.  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.  
May, in every moment, you know the peace of God’s presence  
within and all around.  
Deep peace to you.  
Amen.”

*Today’s Liturgy was prepared for National Indigenous Day of Prayer by Rev. Anne Hines,  
Humber Valley UC, Toronto, Ontario.*