

Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church
Open to All



*God said to Moses,
"I will be standing there in front of you on the rock of
Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it,
so that the people may drink." Exodus: 17:6*

Hybrid Worship
PENTECOST XVIII
27 SEPTEMBER 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

Acknowledgement of the Land

*We prayerfully acknowledge with thanksgiving that we gather
on the uncaded 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

2 Corinthians 13:14

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.

Lighting of Candle

BAS, 1985

God of light,

***yours is the morning and yours is the evening. Let Christ, the
Sun of righteousness, shine for ever in our hearts and draw us to
that light where you live in radiant glory. Make us attentive to
your presence, and eager to follow in the steps of the one who is
our true light, Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.***

Lighting of candle

Opening Hymn: We Are One

VU #402

¹We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing,
as we seek we are found,
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet together in this place.

²We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed,
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.

³We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign,
in the bread and the wine,
there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed,
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.

⁴We are one as we hear,
as we hear heart and hand unite,
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

Prayer of Forgiveness

Most merciful God,

***In your compassion, forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you
in the newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name.
Amen***

Prayer for Illumination and Grace

ACC-UCC

Gracious God,

***You have heard the prayers of your faithful people; and know our
needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant us our
requests as may be best for us. We put our whole trust in you.
Amen.***

Affirmation of Faith

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is first and great and commandment. The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no greater
commandment than these. 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.

Prayer Before the Reading of Scripture

O Holy One,

thank you for coming to us anew this day.

***Prepare our hearts as we listen to your Word and discern your
call within us.***

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7 *(NRSV)*

Reader: Paddy Waymark

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

This is the Word of God

Thanks be to God.

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 Matthew.

Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21: 23-32 *(NRSV)*

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father[a] went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Word: A Refection

Hymn of Response: One Bread, One Body

VU #467

[Refrain]

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

¹Gentile or Jew, servant or free
Woman or man, no more. [R]

²Many the gifts, many the works
One in the Lord, of all. [R]

³Grain for the fields, scattered and grown
Gathered to one, for all. [R]

Life & Work of the Church

Prayers of the People

Susan Brockley

Holy God, we are thirsty
Hear our Prayer.

Offering (*offering is now collected*)

Offering Prayer

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God.
Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart.
Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation

*United Church adaptation of a contemporary composition
of the Anglican Church based on a 4th century liturgy*

Here is the table of the Lord.

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

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you all.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

It is indeed right that we should praise you, for you created all things. Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise.

At your command all things came to be:

***the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home;
by your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,

And blessed us with memory, intelligence, reason, and skill;

You formed us in your own image:

male and female you created us.

You made us stewards of creation.

You made a covenant with Israel,

and through your servants Abraham and Sarah

gave the promise to a blessing to all nations.

Through Moses you led your people from bondage to freedom.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.

Therefore, we give you thanks.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (*sung*)

VU #942

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Holy God, source of life and goodness,
all creation rightly gives you praise.

In the fullness of time, you sent your child Jesus Christ.
to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us.

***He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;
He opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the Good News
to the poor and to those in need. In all things, he fulfilled your
will.***

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.***

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.***

On the night he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
And after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his disciples.
And said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given to you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine;
And after giving thanks, gave it to them, and said,
"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed
for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

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 may be one body, one holy
people.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(Bread and wine to be served)

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,

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

Closing Hymn: Go to the World

VU #420

¹Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
Baptizing, as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

²Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

³Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

⁴Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you 'til the age shall end;
When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy
and guide and comfort us in the disruptions
and turnings of our life,
so that we may abound
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude
