Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church
Open to All



For thus, says the Lord God:
"I myself will search for my sheep,
and will seek them out."
Ezekiel 34:11

Hybrid Worship

REIGN OF CHRIST

22 NOV 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

Today is the Reign of Christ – the day that marks both the end and also the climax of the Christian year. This morning, we pray for your loving guidance until we and all your people make manifest your reign of justice and compassion in the world. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your servant king, this day, and every day. Amen

Acknowledgement of the Land

We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw people. We honour the responsibilities that come with living on these beautiful lands. Amen.

Call to Worship or The Collect (Psalm 95) *Adapted United Church of Christ*

O come, let us sing to the Holy One with joy!

God, you are our restoration and our hope.

You reign in all creation, in our gatherings, and in our hearts.

Make yourself and your way known to us, that we may walk with you in courage and justice.

Lighting of Candle *Adapted United Church of Christ*

Radiant Christ, Light beyond all lights, let your reign unfold within us like dawn on quiet waters. Chase away the dimness of fear, the haze of confusion, the chill of despair.

Kindle in us a flame of courage and compassion, that we may bear your brightness into the world and live as citizens of your gentle, liberating kingdom. Amen.

Opening Hymn: How Sacred Is This Place **VU #392**

How sacred is this place!
Its open door of grace
be bold, my soul, to enter!
May all who worship here,
believing God is near,
find God is at the centre.

Prayer of Forgiveness *Adapted. Episcopal Contemporary Resources*

Merciful God,

Holy One, ***we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully, but so often we lose our way.***
We try to love our neighbors and ourselves, and by your grace, to even love our enemies, but we fail.
Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you; help us to treat others and ourselves with wisdom and loving compassion.

Prayer for Illumination and Grace *Adapted, Episcopal Contemporary Resources*
Holy One, shine your light upon our minds and our paths. Dispel confusion and fear, and let your wisdom rise gently within each of us.
Grant us grace to see what is true, to choose what is good, and to walk with compassion. Amen

Affirmation of Faith *United Church*
We are not alone;
we live in God's world.
We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone;
thanks be to God.

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 *(Episcopal Church)* Mona Smart
God draws near to us through holy scripture. Let us be prepared to be inspired by His word.
We open our ears to hear, and our hearts and minds to receive the Word of God.

Psalm 100 (refrain 2) **VU #824**
[Refrain]
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Shout to God, all the earth:
worship with gladness and joy.
Come before God with laughter,
our maker to whom we belong.
To the Shepherd who tends us like sheep.
let us raise our voices in song.

Come to God's gates with thanks;
come to God's courts with praise.
Praise and bless God's name,
"Truly you are good:
you are always gracious,
and faithful age after age." [R]

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *(NRSVUE)* Reader: Don Butt
For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken

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 25:31-46 *(NRSVUE)*

The Judgment of the Nations

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Thanks be to God

Word: A Reflection on the Readings

Hymn of Response: Christ, Within Us Hidden **MV #162**

[1]Christ, within us hidden.
Christ, in all and each.
Christ, who comes unbidden.
Christ, within our reach.

[2]Christ, born in our stable,
Christ, our daily bread.
Christ, host at our table.
Christ, the hungry fed.
[3]Christ, in friendship's sharing
Christ, in stranger's face.
Christ, reborn in caring.
Christ, in love's embrace.

[4]Christ, in bodies broken,
Love new crucified.
Christ, the Word new spoken,
death by love defied.

[5]Christ, in love recovered.
Christ, in hope revealed.
Christ, in faith discovered.
Christ in tombs unsealed.

Life & Work of the Church

Prayers of the People Catherine Woodward

Loving God,
Hear our Prayers.

The Lord's Prayer (*sung)* **VU #960**

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kindom
and the power and glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

Offering *(offering now to be collected)*

Offering Prayer *Episcopal Contemporary Resources*

God of grace, we thank you for every good gift. Bless these offerings we give today. Make them fruitful for our ministry and the flourishing of our church. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Closing Hymn: Go To The World **VU #420**

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

[2]Go 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!

[3]Go 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!

[4]Go 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!

Blessing & Sending Forth

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Postlude