

Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church
Open to All



7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Hybrid Worship
23 February 2025

Presider: The Rev. Deborah van der Goes
Music Director: Dorothy Dittrich

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 in bold italics, please say together

Prelude:

Untitled composition by Andrea Dow

Welcome & Gathering

(adapted from Diocese of BC Liturgy of Islands & Inlets)

In this time and in this place, we gather on the ancestral lands of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and Coast Salish Peoples

***From many places and many peoples
we come to this house in prayer.***

In this time and in this space

We are not alone

For we meet in the presence of the living God.

In this time and in this place

We are not alone

For the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

In this time and in this space

We are not alone

***For the wind of the Spirit
moves in and through us.***

In this time and in this space

We light this candle to

remind us that our Light comes.

(The Christ Candle is lit)

Almighty God,

***to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.***

***Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,***

that we may perfectly love you,

***and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Hymn: O God of Every Nation

CP #593

¹O God of every nation,

of every race and land,

redeem the whole creation

with your almighty hand.

Where hate and fear divide us

and bitter threats are hurled,

in love and mercy guide us,

and heal our strife-torn world.

²From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray!

³Lord, strengthen all who labor
that we may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase.
When hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.

⁴Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

The Collect

(from "A Prayer book for Australia 1995)

God of mercy, keep before us the love
you have revealed in your Son,
who prayed even for his enemies.

In our words and actions help us to follow his example,
so that we may transform hatred into love
and selfishness into generosity;
through Jesus Christ, our great reward.

Amen.

First Reading

Reader: George Westarp

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.

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

(NRSV)

Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Message of God

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide

CP #418

[Refrain}

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

¹God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. [R]

²Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders
faithful to God's call. [R]

³Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. [R]

Gospel Reading

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 Luke

Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

Luke 6:27–38

(NRSV)

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Sermon: Being Faithful In Our Day

Silence

Affirmation of Faith

(adapted from Anglican Church of Canada)

Let us affirm our Faith.

***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 great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no greater commandment than these.***

Prayers of the People

Paddy Waymark

Our Faith in You Sustains Us,

Hear Our Prayers

Life & Work of the Church

The Peace

(please stand as you are able)

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*(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)*

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Offerings

Let us now gather our offerings

*(Immediately the Elements of bread and wine are brought forward to the altar.
While the altar is being prepared, monetary offerings are gathered, and quiet music is played)*

Offertory Response

(When all is ready at the altar, the monetary offerings are brought forward while the congregation sings)

Doxology

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.***

Prayer over the Gifts

Generous God,
accept all we offer you this day.
Lead us to love you with all our heart,
And to love all people with your perfect love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

(Lutheran Book of Worship)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and all places,
give thanks and praise to you,
Almighty and Merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
With all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and hosts in
heaven, we praise your holy name and join in their unending hymn.

Sanctus and Benedictus

CP #719

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is.... the One who comes
In the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,
and gave thanks; and broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body given for you.
Do this to remember me.

And again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this to remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

CP #720

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! (x2)

With this bread and cup
We remember your Word
Dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth
In his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come Lord Jesus.

Holy God, We long for your Spirit,
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy one of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
One God, now and forever

Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
To share in the body of Christ
**We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

And now as Jesus has taught us, let us sing.

VU #960

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy Kin-dom 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 kin-dom,
and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

The Invitation to Share Communion

(Iona Community)

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love God
and who want to love God more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before,
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come, not because the Church invites you;
It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Prayer After Communion for Epiphany

(Church of England)

Almighty God,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn: How Can I Keep From Singing

CP #401

¹My life flows on in endless song
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

[Refrain]

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
when to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord
of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

²Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing;
it sounds and echoes in my soul;
how can I keep from singing? [R]

³What though the tempest
'round me roar,
I hear the truth it liveth.
What though the darkness
'round me close,
songs in the night it giveth. [R]

⁴When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death knells ringing;
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing? [R]

⁵The peace of Christ
makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am his;
how can I keep from singing? [R]

Blessing and Dismissal

(Liturgy for Island and Inlets)

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his countenance to you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go forth from this place in the power of Christ.
Encourage the faint-hearted;
Help the weak; Be patient with those in need.
See that none of you repays evil for evil;
But always do good to one another and to all.
Rejoice always;
Pray without ceasing;
Give thanks in all circumstances
and the God of peace will be with you

Postlude:

Untitled composition by Andrea Dow