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The Very Rev. Ansley Tucker, Diocesan Administrator

The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest

***“Together in Christ
we seek to love God and
to love and serve all others”***

September 20, 2020

Pentecost 16

Sunday Virtual Worship Service



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.

Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher presides & preaches.

Organ prelude - Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: As we meet together, we begin by remembering the Lekwungen speaking people, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through the many generations. As we meet together, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent, whose joyful spirit embraces us. Now let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Welcome: Good morning and welcome to this service of worship on the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost. My name is Paul Schumacher and I am the interim priest-in-charge during this time of transition, here at the Church of The Advent.

Now, we invite you to come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses and your fears. Come and join our readers, prayer leaders, music director and choir members, along with our technical team, as we offer prayer and praise to our Creator. For God loves us all and all are welcome in this space.

Scripture Sentence of the Day: Scripture shares with us, “Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son”.

Opening Hymn: CP 520 “The King of Love my Shepherd Is”

(Henry Williams Baker © Oxford University Press)

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Thou spread’st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestowth;
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the lengths of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever!

Greeting:

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.

Act of Praise: A Prayer (*From the Lutheran prayer book*)

Please join me in the spirit of this prayer:

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we can not rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgement, and help us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day:

Almighty God,

Teach us to discern your hand in all your works

And to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat @ the Chancel:

Song: G 776 "Thuma Mina/ Send Me, Jesus" (*Thuma Mina – South African*)

(© 1984 Utryck, Walton Music Corp., agent)

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.

I will go Lord, I will go Lord, in Your name Lord, I will go.

Psalm: 145 (BAS Pg. 903)

Lydia French

I will exalt you, O God my King, * and bless your name for ever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless you * and praise your name for ever and ever.

3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; * there is no end to his greatness.

4 One generation shall praise your works to another * and shall declare your power.

5 I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty * and all your marvellous works.

6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, * and I will tell of your greatness.

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; * they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, * slow to anger and of great kindness.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: CP 202 “There is a Green Hill”

(Cecil Frances Alexander/ William Horsely)

There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we can not tell
What pains he had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Lydia French

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew.**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon:

Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

Affirmation of Faith:

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Gracious Giver of all good things, through your Son you have called us to take up our cross and to give our lives for the sake of Christ: Hear the cries of your suffering people through all the earth; grant us zeal to serve you and to rejoice in hope, saying: We give you thanks, O God, and call upon your Name.

Inspire your Church, O Holy One, with genuine love, that we may outdo one another in showing honour, rejoicing in hope, being patient in suffering, persevering in prayer, and living peaceably with all. We pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan The Most Revd Justin Badi Arama – Bishop of Juba and Archbishop of the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. We pray for Ansley, our diocesan administrator, Barry our executive officer, for S. Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay - Craig Hiebert & Dyan Davison, we pray for the Diocese of Caledonia - Bishop David Lehmann and for the ministry in Corrections especially Kevin Arndt & Ed Chell.

We give you thanks, O God, **and call upon your name.**

Inspire our nation to resist what is evil and hold fast to what is good, that we may forgo vengeance and overcome evil with good.

We give you thanks, O God, **and call upon your name.**

Observe the misery of all who suffer from harsh taskmasters or from injustice or genocide and from illnesses of all kinds. Hear their cries and come quickly to their rescue. We pray for Dianne, Rick & Barb, Sheila, Alice, Maureen, and Melissa.

We give you thanks, O God, **and call upon your name.**

Guard us from being stumbling blocks to those among us whom we live and guide, to serve our neighbors humbly in the power of the cross.

We give you thanks, O God, **and call upon your name.**

Inspire our community to set our minds on divine things as we bring our concerns to you. We thank you for your radiant presence among us and for all our gracious blessings.

We return to you the lives to those who have followed Jesus into the glory of his Father.

We give you thanks, O God, **and call upon your name.**

We take up the cross of our intercession and service to you, O God, as we bring before you the suffering of the world: Let the power of Christ's resurrection bring your justice and glory into all

creation, as we share our part in the redeeming work of Christ's cross, through the power of the Spirit, glorifying your Name in all the world. Amen.

Confession and Absolution:

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to share in his forgiveness. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

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 those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing:

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,

Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, our Creator,

Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

And may the blessing of the God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and forever more. Amen.

Shared Ministry:

Commissioning Hymn: CP 244 “We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight”

(Henry Alford/Marty Haugen, Copyright 1984 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.)

We walk by faith, and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But we believe him near.

We may not touch his hand, and side,
Nor follow where he trod;
But in his promise we rejoice
And cry, “My Lord and God”.

Help then O Lord, our unbelief,
And may our faith abound;
To call on you when you are near,
And seek where you are found;

that when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

Commissioning: By your word, eternal God, your creation sprang forth, and we were given the breath of life. By your word, eternal God, death is overcome. Christ is raised from the tomb, and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit. May we boldly proclaim this good news in our words and our deeds, rejoicing always in your loving presence; through Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour. **Amen.**

TODAY WE PRAY

*Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
Pray for Ansley our Diocesan Administrator, & Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge.
For S. Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay, & Diocese of Caledonia
In the Selkirk Region for Corrections.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Today, we remember Dianne, Rick & Barb, Sheila, Alice, Carol Ann,
Joan, & Maureen.
We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.*