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The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest

The Rev. Colleen Lissamer, Deacon

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

**October 3rd, 2021 – 19th Sunday After Pentecost & Blessing of the Animals
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 & Rev. Colleen Lissamer preaches.

Organ prelude - Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, 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 today, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses, and your fears, for God loves us all and all are welcome in this space. We invite you to 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.

Scripture Sentence of the Day: “If we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

Opening Hymn: CP #415 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

(Words: Cecil Frances Alexander {1818-1895}, alt. Music: William Henry Monk {1823-1889}.)

Refrain:

***All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.***

Each radiant flower that opens,
Each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their lively wings. ***Refrain***

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruit in the garden,
God made them everyone. ***Refrain***

The rocky mountain splendour,
The loon’s wild, haunting call,
The great lakes and the prairies,
The forest in the fall. ***Refrain***

Gad gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is the Creator,
Who has made all things well. **Refrain**

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: *(From the Lutheran Book of Worship)*

O God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another and all creation. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may be a reflection of the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, **you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen .**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat @ the Chancel: Rev. Colleen Lissamer

Blessing of the Animals:

We thank you, God, for the gift of life: for the beauty and wonder of creation, and for our own life which comes from you.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

We thank you for the richness of animal life: for fish and birds, insects, reptiles, and mammals.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

We thank you for the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy and comfort when we are sad.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

We thank you for calling us to care for these animals. May we learn love and respect for all living things.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Blessed are you, living, loving God. All creation praises you, yet you have given the earth into our hands. You made animals as our companions, that in caring for them we might learn to love

and care for all your creatures and find in them a sign of your grace. As we fulfil this calling may we draw close to you, the giver of all life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song: MV #87 “Water Flowing from the Mountain”

(Words and music: Jim Hannah; Arr. David Melhorn-Boe, 2006. Words and music copyright © 2003: Jim Hannah. Arrangement copyright © 2006: David Melhorn-Boe.)

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o’er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain

Drink deep this source of life.
Drink deep and know.
For living water sings,
And living water brings the love
that makes our spirit grow.

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free. ***Refrain***

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water come to us, so precious.
Living water for each one. ***Refrain***

Psalm: 26 (BAS Pg. 734)

1 Give judgement for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

2 Test me, O Lord, and try me; * examine my heart and my mind.

3 For your love is before my eyes; * I have walked faithfully with you.

4 I have not sat with the worthless, * nor do I consort with the deceitful.

5 I have hated the company of evildoers; * I will not sit down with the wicked.

6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, * that I may go in procession round your altar,

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving * and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell* and the place where your glory abides.

9 Do not sweep me away with sinners, * nor my life with those who thirst for blood,

10 Whose hands are full of evil plots, * and their right hand full of bribes.

11 As for me, I will live with integrity; * redeem me, O Lord, and have pity on me.

12 My foot stands on level ground; * in the full assembly I will bless the Lord.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

'What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honour,
subjecting all things under their feet.'

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

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 #414 “God of the Sparrow”

(Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda {1919-}, ©. Music: Carl F. Schalk {1929-}. © 1983 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.)

God of the sparrow, God of the whale,
God of the swirling stars, how does the creature say awe?
How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm,
God of the trumpet blast, how does the creature say woe?
How does the creature say Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross,
God of the empty grave, how does the creature say grace?
How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick,
God of the prodigal, how does the creature say care?
How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbour, God of the foe,
God of the pruning hook, how does the creature say love?
How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God near at hand,
God of the loving heart, how do your children say joy?
How do your children say Home?

Gospel: Mark 10: 2-16

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ They said, ‘Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, “God made them male and female.” “For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.’

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.’

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Colleen Lissamer

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

Prayers of the People October 3, 2021

I will end each petition with "Let us Pray to the Lord."

Please respond with "**Lord have mercy.**"

God, our Creator is here. (pause) Let us in the stillness of our hearts pray that we may have the consciousness of God's presence. Let us in the stillness of our hearts pray that God will reveal to us the things that hinder our peace. Let us, in the stillness of our hearts, pray that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to witness fearlessly against evil. Let us in the stillness of our hearts pray to be conscious of what it means when we say, "Thy Kingdom come".

Let us Pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

In peace we pray for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers, and we pray for those who need prayers, but have no one to pray for them. We pray for Bob, Irene, Travis, Bill, Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Kian, and

the staff and residents of the Westshore Lodge. I invite you now to pray aloud or silently for any others you hold in your heart.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Loving Father, we pray for all who mourn. We ask that they find comfort in You. We ask for your strength for them, in their time of need. Let them know they are loved and wrap them in Your love and warmth. We pray for the family and friends of Graham Wright, nephew of Trevor Wright, his wife Wendy, and their children Bradley & Sarah.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lord, we pray for all our Military and first responders here at home and those deployed throughout the world. Keep them safe and return them to their loving families.

Let us Pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

In Your infinite wisdom, Lord God, when You created the universe, and you blessed us with all living creatures. We especially thank you for giving us our pets, our friends who bring us so much joy in life. Their presence often helps us get through trying times. Bless our pets, may they continue giving us joy and remind us of Your power. Help us to realize that as our pets trust us to take care of them, so we should trust You to take care of us. In taking care of them, we share in Your love for all creatures.

Let us Pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

God, your light, lights our lives. We pray that its reflection will warm those around us and show them just who You are. Amen!

Confession and Absolution: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them into his grace. 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, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. 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, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with you
this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Shared Ministry:

Commissioning Hymn: CP #355 "All Creatures of our God and King"

(Words: Keri K. Wehlander, 2005. Music Trad. Sacred Harp. Public Domain)

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voices, let us sing, alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun and golden beams,
Pale silver moon that gently gleams,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Great rushing winds and breezes soft,
You clouds that ride the heavens aloft,
O sing now, alleluia, alleluia!
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice,
Stars nightly shining, find a voice,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Earth ever fertile, day by day,
Unfold your blessings on our way,
O sing now, alleluia, alleluia!
All flowers and fruit that in you grow,
God's glory let them also show,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness, alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Commissioning: Merciful God, your hand is open wide, so to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence. Grant that we may be faithful stewards of all your good gifts and care for everything you have given for our well-being.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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TODAY WE PRAY

Pray for The Church in Wales.

Pray for Barry our Executive Archdeacon, Anna our Bishop,

Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge, & Colleen our Deacon.

Pray for the Congregation of S. John Gualbert, Pt. McNeill, & Diocese of Yukon.

In the Selkirk Region for S. Mary of the Incarnation, Metchosin.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Carol Ann, Bill, Kian, Travis, Bob, Irene, & Cynthia.

The staff and residents of Westshore Lodge.

The family and friends of Graham Wright (nephew of Trevor Wright), his wife Wendy and their children Bradley & Sarah.

We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.