

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RICHMOND HILL



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Pentecost 16 **SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

PRELUDE *Ethan Kwan*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

Silence for reflection

Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.

We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation:

teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.

We confess that we have misused your earth:

grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:

strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of the world for granted:
make us urgent now for its protection.

**Forgive and renew us now through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven, + God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new,
In the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN ELW # 731 EARTH AND ALL STARS

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

***Refrain* God has done marvelous things.**

I too sing praises with a new song!

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!

Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Engines and steel, loud pounding hammers,

sing to the Lord a new song!

Limestone and beams, loud building workers,

sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Classrooms and labs, loud boiling test tubes,

sing to the Lord a new song!

Athlete and band, loud cheering people,

sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Daughter and son! Loud praying members!

Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place. We praise you for felines and feathers, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honour you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh. Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. **Amen**

WORD

ISAIAH 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, **which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.**

The mountains surround Jerusalem; so you surround your people, **O Lord, from this time forth for- evermore.**

The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just,

so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

Show your goodness, O Lord,
to those who are good and to those who are true of heart.
As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers;
but peace be upon Israel.

JAMES 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it..... What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice;
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice;
Rejoice! Rejoice! **Rejoice! Rejoice!**
And again I say Rejoice! **And again I say Rejoice!**
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice;
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice;

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

MARK 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN: ELW # 726 LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

**Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
The promised day of justice comes.**

***Refrain:* The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

**Love grows in a weary world
When hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed
Love grows in a weary world
The promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain***

**Hope blooms in a weary world,
when creatures once forlorn, find wilderness reborn
Hope blooms in a weary world,
The promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We have faith in one God, one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth, who created all things good.
And we have faith in Christ,
in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity
to bear God's likeness in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.
And we have faith in God's Spirit
who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle.
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,
her life is transformed for all creatures
and her bounty shared justly.
So be it. Amen.**

*Adapted From India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlag shaus, Gütersloh 1998.
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PRAYERS

God of all hopefulness, we bring before You our concerns for the world and her people.

A brief silence

Gracious God, we turn to You, For You are the source of our hope and the creator of the Kingdom. We pray for parents around the world who reach out in hope for their children. We pray for justice: when they struggle to provide food for their families; when they cannot find a place to make a home for their children.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we turn to You, For You are the source of our hope and the creator of the Kingdom. We pray for those who find themselves on the margins of their societies. We pray for justice: that they might confront centres of power with the experience of life on the margins; that they might be allowed to contribute to the welfare of society; that we may all be enriched by the insights and wisdom they bring to our communities.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we turn to You, For You are the source of our hope and the creator of the Kingdom. We pray for those who are struggling with ailments, who are sick or suffering. We pray for those facing surgery. We pray for those who are grieving. Especially we pray for those we name before you now: for Ingrid and for the family and friends of Hans Engel. Be with them and assure them of your presence and loving hands.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we turn to you. For you are the source of our hope and the creator of the Kingdom. We pray for our common home and all who seek to ensure its wellbeing. We pray for justice: that all nations of the world will work together for the common good of each person and our planet; that conservation will enable habitats to flourish while meeting the needs of local communities; that we each understand the impact we have upon the earth and adjust our lifestyle accordingly.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we turn to You, For You are the source of our hope and the creator of the Kingdom. We pray for ourselves, Disturb us and disquiet us with a passion for justice. Challenge us to grasp a vision of Your new world and motivate us to act to birth it into being. Enable us to pass on the gift of hope, so others are empowered to continue the journey of faith.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we turn to You, For You are the source of our hope and the creator of the Kingdom. We lift up these prayers to you. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

(Scottish Eco-congregation 2018 adapted)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

HYMN DURING OFFERING

ELW # 481 COME TO THE TABLE x2

**Come to the table of mercy....prepared with the wine and the bread.
all who are hungry and thirsty.....come and your soul will be fed.
Come at the lord's invitation.....receive from his nail-scarred hand
eat of the bread of salvation.....drink of the blood of the lamb.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray. God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and labour. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Light. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You spoke the Word and all that is in heaven and on the earth,
all things, came to be.

Your Spirit hovered over the primal elements,
and you brought forth life in forms innumerable,
including this our fragile earth, and we among its inhabitants.

As our past is in you, so our hope for the future rests with you.

As we have turned from your way,
so we turn again to the warmth of your love.

Through you all things are brought to new life.

And now we give you thanks for the glories of your creation
given into our care, and for the opportunities we have
to share that richness with all your people.

And so with the wonders of creation

and the songs of praise of all your creatures

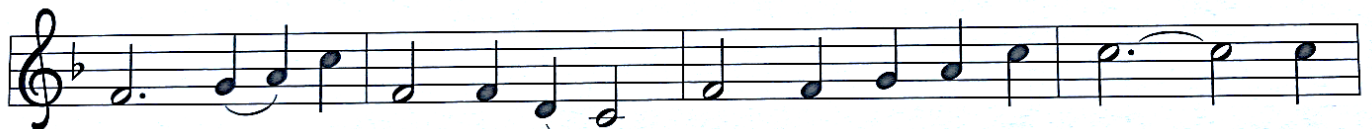
both in heaven and on earth we praise you now and for ever saying:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread,
work of human hands, gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God.
He broke the bread to speak to us
of the breaking of his body upon the cross.

He gave it to his friends and said:

Take and eat, for this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

He took the wine,

work of human hands, gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God, Creator.

He poured out the wine to speak to us of the pouring out of his blood.

He gave it to his friends saying:

This is my blood of the new covenant,

shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins.

Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore God, we who seek your reconciliation;

we who need reconciliation one with another;

we who hope for reconciliation with all creation,

draw close to this mystery.

In being broken, spilt and buried, life sprang forth again.

In the breaking, there is an opening up;

in the spilling, there are the roots of sharing;

in death and burial, there is the seed of the new life to come.

As we look in our world, in our lives, and in our hearts,

for his second coming,

keep us close to this vision that we have seen.

Through the giving in the bread and wine,

reconcile us to our world and give us the broken oneness,

the spilled unity, and the buried resurrection

by which we can restore your creation and fulfil your will.

Send upon us, and upon all your creation, the life-giving Spirit

who first moved upon the waters of the deep.

Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Unite us with you through the body and blood of your Son,

your Word made flesh as your Word has made flesh.

By whom, and with whom and in whom,
in the unity of your Creative Spirit,
with all that has been, is, and will be in your universe,
we stand before you and worship you,
God of all, in songs of everlasting praise,
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Anglican Church of South Africa, adapted

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words
"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Speak to us, Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

Thanks be to God.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ
strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us
gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come
to life in our serving and in our witness, that we may speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and
our redeemer. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, saviour of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church;
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: ELW # 886 O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing

My great Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and king,

The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,

Assist me to proclaim,

To spread through all the earth abroad,

The honours of Thy name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears,

and bids our sorrows cease—

Sings music in the sinner's ears,

Brings life, and health, and peace.

He speaks, and, list'ning to His voice,

New life the dead receive,

The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,

The humble poor believe.

Look unto him, your Saviour own,

O fallen human race!

Look and be saved through grace alone,

Be justified by grace!

To God, all glory, praise and love

Be now and ever giv'n

By saints below and saints above,

The church in earth and heav'n.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Celebrate the ever-creating God who lives with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Ethan Kwan*