

## **A Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace**

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Scia'new and other Coast Salish nations have walked gently on these territories where we all now live, work, worship and play. We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based in honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.

O God, who called all life into being,  
**The earth, sea and sky are yours.**  
Your presence is all around us,  
**Every atom is full of your energy.**  
Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,  
**With her we yearn for justice to be done,**  
For creation to be freed from bondage,  
**For the hungry to be fed,**  
For the captives to be released,  
**For your kingdom of peace to come on earth.**

**Hymn CP3 Morning Has Broken**

*Allison*

**Children's Time**

*All the Kids*

**Collect**

*Wally*

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit,  
keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**The Word of God**

Genesis 1:1-5

*Andrew*

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

*Psalm 29*

*Rachel*

*[REFRAIN] The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

*Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness [R] The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. [R]*

*The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. [R]*

*The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!" [R]*

*The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. [R]*

*Acts 19:1-7*

*Andrew*

*While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."*

*Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied - altogether there were about twelve of them.*

**Gospel**

*Wally*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

The good news of Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:4-11.

**Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*

### **Reflection**

*Brendan*

**Hymn**      **CP656 She Comes Sailing on the Wind**      *Rachel*

### **Prayer of confession**

**O God, you are always true to us in love  
and we are left wanting to say sorry  
for our faithlessness to you and to one another  
for our forgetting of the poor and the broken,  
for our failure to cherish creation.  
Give us life, O God, to change  
and enable us to change, that we may live.**

### **Affirmation of faith**

*Wally*

It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost.  
**This is true: for God so loved the world that he gave his only son  
so that everyone who believes in him shall not die,  
but have everlasting life.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction.

**This is true: I have come that they may have life,  
and have it abundantly.**

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word,  
and that war and destruction have come to stay for ever.

**This is true: for to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
in whom authority will rest, and whose name will be Prince of Peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil that seek to rule the world;

**This is true: to me is given authority in heaven and on earth,  
and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything.

**This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all people,  
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,  
your young people shall see visions,  
and your old folk shall dream dreams.**

It is not true that our dreams of liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and its history.

**This is true: the hour comes, and it is now,  
that true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

### Prayers of concern and celebration

*Ruth*

Hymn      CP40 Spirit of the Living God

*Shirley*

### Closing

*Wally*

God's blessing on you who are poor,

**Yours is the Kingdom of God.**

God's blessing on you who mourn,

**You shall be comforted.**

God's blessing on you who hunger for justice,

**You shall be satisfied.**

God's blessing on you who make peace,

**You shall be called Children of God.**

God's blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right,

**Yours is the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen**

### Announcements

### Dismissal

Be at peace, and love and serve God and your neighbours