

## **Abridged Liturgy of the Islands May 2nd**

In this time and place, we gather on the ancestral territories of Coast Salish peoples.  
**From many places and peoples we come to this house in prayer.**

In this time and place, We are not alone, For we meet in the presence of the living God.  
**For we meet in the presence of the living God.**

In this time and place, We are not alone, For the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.  
**The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.**

In this time and place, We are not alone, For the wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.  
**The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.**

In this time and place, We are not alone for we gather with the whole company of heaven, In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.  
**In this time and place heaven and earth are one.**

In this time and place, Together, one people in Jesus Christ.  
**In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***Kid's Time***

*The Kids & David*

***Opening Hymn CP 9 Today I Awake***

*Shirley*

***Gloria***

*Wally*

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to his people on earth.**  
**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,**  
**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**  
**Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**  
**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**  
**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**  
**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**  
**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

***Kyrie*** [said 3 times]

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## **Centering Stillness**

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. (*silence*)

## **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God,  
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.  
Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## **WORD**

*Russ*

*We hear this morning the story of the encounter between the apostle Philip, one of the original twelve disciples, and a high ranking official from the court of the Queen of the Ethiopians. It is uncertain if the Ethiopian that Philip met was a Jew, or a gentile (a non-Jew), or a gentile who is attracted to, and engages in, Jewish belief and worship. The ambiguity that these three possibilities raise is perhaps intentional on the part of the author. The story confirms that the good news of Jesus Christ has a universal appeal. It is for all people. A reading from Acts, chapter 8*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and

both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, Word of Life.

***Psalm 22:24-30***

*Rachel*

[REFRAIN] All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

*Near the end of the first century an unknown author wrote three brief letters, the first being the longest. The community that the writer addresses has recently experienced some division and there are those in the church who have failed, or are failing to carry out the commandment that was given to the church by Jesus – "Love one another as I have loved you". As you will hear in the opening two sentences, love for one another is the primary calling and duty of all who will follow the way of Christ. A person cannot love God if they fail to reach out in love to their neighbour. It is as we love one another that God lives in us. A reading from the first letter of John, chapter 4*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Gospel**

*Wally*

The Lord be with you,  
**and also with you.**

The Good News of Jesus Christ According to John 15:1-8

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

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of Christ.

***RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD***

*Wally*

***Hymn CP 56 I am the Bread***

*Rachel*

*Affirming the Christian Narrative*

**We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.  
We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, his Son.  
We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.  
We believe and trust in the Three in One.**

*Prayers of the People*

*Ruth*

*Confession and Absolution*

*Wally*

**Jesus, forgive my sins.  
Forgive the sins I can remember, and also the sins I have forgotten.  
Forgive the wrong actions I have committed,  
and the right actions I have omitted.  
Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of temptation,  
and those when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.  
Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements,  
and those when I have failed to boast of your works.  
Forgive the harsh judgements I have made of others,  
and the leniency I have shown to myself.  
Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided.  
Forgive me the pain I have caused others,  
and the indulgence I have shown to myself.  
Jesus have pity on me, and make me whole.**

**May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself,  
and cleanse us from all our sins,  
that we may behold the glory of his Son, the word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Lord's Prayer**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, you will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Announcements**

- \* Wardens: Meeting of Bishop Anna and Parish Council
- \* others in the congregation
- \* clergy

**Closing Hymn CP 482 verses 1, 3, 6**

*Jennifer*

**Blessing**

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 us, Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Dismissal**

*Wally*

Be at peace, see beauty, and love and serve the Lord.