**Gathering**:

If only these walls could talk! This sacred space holds the memory of 100 years of praise given, of thanks offered, of prayers lifted, of faith renewed. In the silence of the next few moments, let the faithfulness of those who have gone before and the abiding presence of our God embrace us with love and hope as we prepare our hearts for worship …. (*silence*) *Singing bowl*

**Benediction**:

As we remember the last 100 years – we give thanks and praise

As we celebrate the present – we ask for wisdom and faithfulness to meet the challenges and opportunities of today.

And as we go forth into future days – we pray for courage

and guidance to follow where the Spirit leads.

And may the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord make His face to shine upon you

and be gracious unto you;

May the Lord lift up the light of Her countenance upon you;

and give you peace.

**♦**♪ **Hymn: 赞美诗**  ‘Give Thanks For Life’ (4) ***VU 706***

**Prayer of Gathering: 祷告**

♦ Please stand where indicated, as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

**West Point Grey United Church**

**Vancouver, BC**

**A Celebration of Worship**

**Celebrating 100 years of Faithful Service**

**September 30th, 2012**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Preparing Our Hearts For Worship**

*(gathering words will be followed by a time of silence,*

*ending with the chiming of the singing bowl)*

**Remembering The Past**

**Invitation to Worship: Psalm 84**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.   
 3 **Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing Your praise.**5  
 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!  
 12 **O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts**

**in You.**

**♦♪** **Hymn**: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy’ ***VU # 315***

*(Verse 3 – choir and organ only)*

-2-

**Prayer of Gathering:** *(together)*

**Eternal God, we long for truths that are lasting, yet we want our faith to be alive to the people and problems of today. As we sail forward in an ever-changing world, may faith in Christ be our anchor, and Your love be our guide, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Sharing The Peace of Christ:**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(during the hymnsing, children and youth may leave*

*for JAM children’s ministry)*

**Celebrating The Present**

**Prayer for Illumination:** *together*

**As we look back with thanks, and forward with trust,**

**O God of Ages, help us to listen for Your Word of guidance, as our ancestors in the faith have done –**

**that we may continue to find wisdom, inspiration and**

**hope to live as Your people. Amen.**

**Hebrew Scripture:** Isaiah 43: 16-21 *Dorothy W*

**Gift of Music**: ‘We Celebrate Our Heritage’ C*hoir*

*(composed for the 100th Anniversary by Erik Olson, our current*

*Director of Music, with words by Jan Tennant)*

-3-

**Christian Scripture**: Hebrews 11: 8-16, 39-40

**♦♪ Hymn:** ‘Here I Am, Lord’ V***U # 509***

**Reflecting On The Word**: Rev. Mollie Williams

*(former candidate for ministry from WPGUC)*

**Prayers of the People** *Christina Watkins*

**Trusting The Future**

♪ **Offertory** / **♦♪ Presentation of Our Gifts:** ***U # 541***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures high and low;

Give thanks to God in love made known;

Creator, Word and Spirit - One.

**Litany of Thanks and Trust**:

Eternal God, we praise You for this world, our home,

and for every sign of Your presence within it. Today we especially thank You for our church community at

West Point Grey United, celebrating 100 years of faithful witness and service, that to us it is a sign of Your presence.

**We thank You, God of Grace, for those who had the vision to establish it, for those who had the audacity**

**to believe You could use it. We acknowledge that at**

**no time has the task been an easy one – and while we seek to serve You, never will be.**

For this reason, we praise You for every person whose perseverance has brought us to this day. For every person who has given mind, skill and money. For every person who has devoted energy, time, and imagination.

**Most of all, our God, we thank You that, in spite of**

**our failures, disappointments, and loss, You have**

**been among us, disturbed us with Your presence,**

**and encountered us with Your Son.**

*over …*

-4-

We thank You for the present, in which we live and work:

that in it, we experience Your forgiveness, mercy and love;

that from it, we can look back, reflect, and with a deeper understanding of ourselves and You, be better prepared

for the road before us.

**And for the sharing of its pain and pleasure, its sorrow and joy, You have given us each other. We thank You, God of love, for those persons in our church with whom we share a special relationship. For those who are an example and inspiration to us;**

**for those who encourage us, and love us without demand. For such persons, God, we are more**

**grateful than we can tell.**

We praise You also, God of Guidance, for the future,

which You are opening out before us, and where You surprise us with the unexpected. We thank You that it belongs to You, so that, come what may, we are met

by Your grace, and can journey in hope. That we are

not asked to take an untravelled way, or to choose our direction blindfold: You have set the crucified Christ

before us as Risen Lord, and promised that we can

share his life.

**Most Gracious God, we praise You that You have given us a beginning, and will be with us at the end.**

**That in the strength of Your love, we can follow**

**You to the edge of time, and the threshold of eternity. For Yours is the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**♦♪ Hymn:** ‘God Of Life’ ***VU # 528***

**♦****Blessing As We Go Forth**

♪ **Postlude:** ‘God of Life’ *arr. Erik Olson*

Offertory Prayer: **祷告**

As Your saints in this time and place, Gracious God, we have the opportunity to feed others from the abundance of all we have, to wipe away the tears of those who are lonely and fearful.  May the gifts we offer, and the lives we lead, help to spread grace

over all the world.  This we pray in Jesus' name.  Amen.

**Litany of Thanksgiving for the Saints of West Point Grey United**

Today, on this Sunday closest to All Saints Day, we remember the ‘saints’ of the past in this congregation and celebrate the saints of the present……

We also celebrate the saints of the present through whom the light of Christ continues to shine in this congregation …….

We are thankful for these saints, past and present, and for the light of love and faith that has shone through them and others – welcoming, inspiring, caring and sharing – through the 100 years of this congregation’s existence.

**May the light of Christ continue to shine in large and small ways through the words and deeds of all of us – called to be saints – and strengthened to be God’s hands and feet to the world. Amen. So may it be.**

Your people through the ages, Holy One, have always been risk-takers – following the wild, adventurous leading of the Spirit, which is continually shaking us from our complacency and pushing us to dream God’s dream anew for each generation. You called our ancestors in the faith, Sarah and Abraham, to step out into the unknown, trusting in Your love and promise.

**You commissioned a reluctant Moses to lead Your people into new lands of possibility, relying solely on Your grace.**

In difficult times, You spoke through Your prophets: Miriam and

Deborah, Amos and Esther and Ruth, Jeremiah and Isaiah, to assure

Your people of Your steadfast love and to bring them hope for a new

beginning – leading them into a future they could not as yet see.

**In Jesus, You showed us a new way of being Your people and a glimpse of Your reign of possibility. And in him, we have been given the grace to be Your hands and feet to the world.**

We give thanks for those whose faith, courage and vision established this

congregation 100 years ago: the MacGregor, Burgess, Wright, Gutteridge,

Blackwell, Welsh, McGlashan, McPherson, Arnold, Marshall, Champton,

Hopper, William and Montgomery families – among others.

**And we are grateful for the many people of this congregation since, that have expressed their faith and devotion in many ways – leaving a rich legacy which we inherit today.**

*People are asked to write on a slip of paper (provided) the name of someone at WPGUC who has welcomed, encouraged, supported or cared for them – or if a guest, someone for whom they are thankful.*

***We acknowledge these lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, cultural, traditional and unceded lands***

***of the Musqueam***, *Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

**West Point Grey United Church**

**Vancouver, BC**

♦Please stand where indicated, as you are able & comfortable

Congregational responses are in **bold**

**A Celebration of Worship**

**105th Anniversary Sunday**

**November 12th, 2017**

**Prelude**

**Welcome / Life and Work of the People**

**Silence, As We Prepare Our Hearts For Worship**

If only these walls could talk! This sacred space holds the memory of 105 years of praise given, of thanks offered, of prayers lifted, of faith renewed. In the silence of the next few moments, let the faithfulness of those who have gone before and the abiding presence of our God

embrace us with love and hope as we prepare our hearts for worship ….

*(gathering words will be followed by a time of silence,*

*ending with the chiming of the singing bowl)*

**Acknowledging The Territory / Lighting the Christ Candle**

*We recognize the lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, traditional and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people, and light a candle for the ongoing work of reconciliation with all our First Nations sisters and brothers.*

*And we light our Christ candle, remembering the One who walked*

*among us and is with us still – Jesus, the Light of the World.*

-2-

**Remembering The Past**

**Invitation to Worship: Psalm 84**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.   
 3 **Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest**

**for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars,**

**O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.4 Happy are those who live in Your house, ever singing Your praise.**5  
 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

12 **O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in You.**

**♦**♪ **Hymn**: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy’ ***VU # 315***

**Words of Gathering***:*

Your people through the ages, Holy One, have always been risk-takers – following the wild, adventurous leading of the Spirit, which is continually shaking us from our complacency and pushing us to dream God’s dream anew for each generation. You called our ancestors in the faith, Sarah and Abraham, to step out into the unknown, trusting in Your love and promise.

**You commissioned a reluctant Moses to lead Your people into new lands of possibility, relying solely on Your grace.**

In difficult times, You spoke through Your prophets: Miriam and Deborah, Amos and Esther and Ruth, Jeremiah and Isaiah, to assure Your people of Your steadfast love and to bring them hope for a new beginning – leading them into a future they could not as yet see.

**In Jesus, You showed us a new way of being Your people and a glimpse of Your reign of possibility. And in him, we have been given the grace to be Your hands and feet to the world of our day.**

**-3-**

Today, on this Anniversary Sunday, we also give thanks for those whose faith, courage and vision established this congregation.

**And we are grateful for the many people of this congregation since, that have expressed their faith**

**and devotion in many ways – saints who have left**

**a rich legacy, which we inherit today.**

May the richness of our past be the ground out of which love, hope and faithfulness blossom. We gather this prayer with the one Jesus taught: *(please share in the language of your heart)*

**♦ Sharing The Peace of Christ:**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Remembering The Past:** Moments in WPGUC History

♪ Old Fashioned Hymn Sing:

“Come, Let Us Sing Of A Wonderful Love’ VU 574

“Jesus Bids Us Shine” VU 585

“In The Garden”

“What A Friend We Have In Jesus’ VU 664

“Will Your Anchor Hold?” VU 675

**Celebrating The Present**

**Prayer for Illumination:** *together*

As we look back with thanks, and forward with trust, O God of Ages, help us to listen for Your Word of guidance, as our ancestors in the faith have done – that we may continue to find wisdom, inspiration and hope to live as Your people. Amen.

-4-

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 29: 1-14a *‘I know the plans I have for you’*

♪ Gift of Music:

**Responsive Reading**: Matthew 6: 25-34 *(Living Bible paraphrase)*

*Jesus said,* “So my counsel is: Don’t worry about *things—*food, drink, and clothes. For you already have life and a body—and they are far more important than what to eat and what to wear. Look at the birds! They don’t worry about what to eat—they don’t need to sow or reap or store up food—for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Will all your worries add a single moment to your life?

**And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don’t worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and**

**gone tomorrow, won’t he more surely care for you, O**

**people of little faith?**

So don’t worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them:

**And don’t be anxious about tomorrow. For God will take care of**

**your tomorrows too. Just live one day at a time.**

**Reflecting on the Word**

**Prayers of the People**

**Trusting God For The Future**

♪ **Offertory**

*As God’s people in this time and place, we have the opportunity to feed others from the abundance of all we have, to wipe away the tears of those who are lonely and fearful.  May the gifts we offer, and the lives we lead, help to spread love, justice and grace over all the world.*

**WPGUC Anniversary Video**

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**♦**♪ **Presentation of Our Gifts:** ***VU # 541***

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,*

*Praise God, all creatures high and low;*

*Give thanks to God in love made known;*

*Creator, Word and Spirit - One.*

**Litany of Thanks and Trust**:

Eternal God, we praise You for this world, our home, and for every sign of Your presence within it. Today we especially thank You for our church community at West Point Grey United, celebrating 105 years of faithful witness and service, that to us it is a sign of Your presence.

**We thank You, God of Grace, for those who had the vision to establish it, for those who had the audacity**

**to believe You could use it. We acknowledge that at**

**no time has the task been an easy one – and while we seek to serve You, never will be.**

For this reason, we praise You for every person whose perseverance has brought us to this day. For every person who has given mind, skill and money. For every person who has devoted energy, time, and imagination.

**Most of all, our God, we thank You that, in spite of**

**our failures, disappointments, and loss, You have**

**been among us, disturbed us with Your presence,**

**and encountered us with Your Son.**

We thank You for the present, in which we live and work:

that in it, we experience Your forgiveness, mercy and love;

that from it, we can look back, reflect, and with a deeper understanding of ourselves and You, be better prepared

for the road before us.

**And for the sharing of its pain and pleasure, its sorrow and joy, You have given us each other. We thank You, God of love, for those persons in our church with whom we share a special relationship. For those who are an example and inspiration to us; for those who encourage us, and love us without demand. For such persons, God, we are more**

**grateful than we can tell.**

**-6-**

We praise You also, God of Guidance, for the future, which You are opening out before us, and where You surprise us with the unexpected. We thank You that it belongs to You, so that, come what may, we are met by Your grace, and can journey in hope. **That we are not asked to take an untravelled way, or to choose our direction blindfold: You have set the crucified Christ before us as Risen Lord, and promised that we can share his life.**

Most Gracious God, we praise You that You have given us a beginning, and will be with us at the end.

**That in the strength of Your love, we can follow**

**You to the edge of time, and the threshold of eternity.**

For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever

and ever.

**Amen**

**♦**♪ **Hymn:** ‘My Love Colours Outside The Lines’ ***MV 138***

**♦****Blessing As We Go Forth**

As we remember the last 105 years – we give thanks and praise

As we celebrate the present – we ask for wisdom and faithfulness to meet the challenges and opportunities of today.

And as we go forth into future days – we pray for courage and guidance to follow where the Spirit leads.

Now, as you go forth - may the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord make His face to shine upon you

and be gracious unto you;

May the Lord lift up the light of Her countenance upon you;

and give you peace.

**♦**♪ **Choral Blessing** ‘God Be With You Till We Meet Again’ ***VU 422***

*God be with you till we meet again, loving counsels guide, uphold you;*

*with a shepherd’s care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet;*

*Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

♪ **Postlude**

***Welcome to West Point Grey United Church***

*If you are a guest in our midst, please feel at home – your presence with us is appreciated! Everyone is invited to a time of refreshments and conversation following the worship. Sermons and bulletins in Mandarin are available in the entryway. Children are invited to go out for JAM (Sunday School) after the passing of the peace.*

*Minister: Rev. Valerie Taylor*

*Director of Music Eileen Padgett*

*Children & Youth Debra Dawes*

*Intercultural Coordinator Linda Liang*

*Projectionist: Norman Henderson*

*Office Administrator Janis Terrien*

*Scripture Reader: Marilyn Harrison*

*Prayers Of The People: Ken Carty*

*Greeters & Ushers* Dorothy Wiebe and Susan Ranta.