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

***of the Səl̓ílwətaʔ,  Xʷməθkwəy̓əm, & Sḵwx̱wú7meshsi,***

***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**

**Epiphany 4-B**

**January 28th, 2018**

 **Prelude**

 **Welcome and Sharing The Life Of The Congregation**

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

***May the silence which we now share
quieten us,
touch our need,
refresh our courage,
enlarge our wonder.***

 *(a time of silence, ending with the chiming of the singing bowl)*

**Gathered In The Light**

 **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-

♪ **Introit:** ‘Behold, I Make All Things New’ (2x) ***MV 115***

 *Behold, behold, I make all things new,*

 *beginning with you, and starting from today.*

 *Behold, behold, I make all things new,*

 *My promise is true, for I am Christ the way.*

 **Words of Gathering**

*Here, with faith, we reach beyond ourselves,
to find that grace which strengthens our spirit;
to hear that word that changes us;*

*and to come closer to the Sacred...*

**♦**♪ **Hymn:** ‘God Of The Bible’ ***MV 28***

 **Opening and Lord’s Prayer**

 Holy One, You gift us with voices to witness, hands to extend in

 welcome and care, and hearts to love. May Your calling of us grow

 deeper within as Your Spirit equips and inspires us with power to

 follow in Your way. We gather this prayer with the one that Jesus

 taught:  ***VU 921***

*(Please join in the prayer of Jesus in the language and words*

*with which you are most comfortable.)*

**♦**  **Sharing The Peace:**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

 *(As we are in flu season, you are invited to use this opportunity to greet your neighbour in an alternate way to shaking hands. Here are some suggestions:*

 *- the First Nations greeting ‘All My Relations’*

 *- ‘Namaste’ (hands together with bow)*

 *- saying ‘peace be with you’ in another language*

 *- a simple nod with a verbal greeting*

-3-

**Hosting The Word**

***Whether you take what is written in the Bible***

***as fact, metaphor, myth or story – listen to these words***

***for the meaning they hold for you today.***

♪ **Sung** **Prayer for Illumination:  *MV 108***

I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God;

I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.

I know your Word is a lamp, O God,

to light my path forever.

I know your Word is a lamp, O God,

to light my path forever.

 **Congregational Reading:** Psalm 15 *(a paraphrase – Nan Merrill)*

O Beloved God, You invite us to rest in the abode of Your heart,

 to forgive our weaknesses, and renew our love. Who will respond with

 hearts opened wide to Love?

 **Those who walk with integrity, who are in harmony with Your Word, and sing the heart’s song; whose tongues speak truth –**

 **judging not others and seeking only the good;**

whose eyes behold not the outer garments of the body, but see within the inner robe of Love.

 **whose own weaknesses are acknowledged and brought to**

 **light in prayer;**

those who are just in all affairs of life and take not advantage of another.

 **those who dwell in the heart of Love, who act justly, with integrity, will join the Dance of Life, will sing the song of Joy!**

Their family, friends, and, indeed the world, will be blessed by their love.

 **Gospel Reading:** Mark 1: 21 – 28

 *It would be easy to give into the temptation to simply let someone else take over for us, to tell us how to make every decision – in fact, just tell us what the decisions should be! But our Gospel reading today calls us to struggle not only with the question of where true power and authority might lie but how that authority offers us truth. How does living the truthful love and*

 *acceptance revealed by Jesus offer hope and healing to others?*

***May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,***

***as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.***

 -4-

 Reflecting On The Word*: ‘The Question of Authority’*

**Our Response of Gratitude**

♪ **Offertory**

♪**♦ Presentation of Our Gifts: *VU 585***

Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,

 like a little candle burning in the night.

 In this world is darkness, so let us shine,

 you in your small corner, and I in mine.

 **Prayers of Concern and Celebration**

♪**♦ Hymn:** ‘Will You Come And Follow Me?’ ***VU 567***

**♦Blessing As We Go Forth**

♪ **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: Sandra Bruneau*

*Prayers of the People: Cathie Perry*

*Greeters & Ushers Jean Leach and Marg Berthelsen*