***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 3-B**

**January 21st, 2018**

 **Prelude**

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

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

 ***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...***

*(gathering words will be followed by 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.*

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♪ **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**

 The word of God comes to us this morning – encouraging, challenging,

 **calling us out of our comfort zones, to go where grace is needed most.**

 **May our worship open us to God’s great adventure!**

**♦**♪ **Hymn:** ‘God Of The Sparrow’ ***VU 229***

 **Opening and Lord’s Prayer**

 Companion God, You send us out to travel the path of faithful living.

 Be with us on our journey. When we are stuck, nudge us forward.

 When we are going too fast to notice the needs of others along the

 way, slow us down. When You ask more of us than we are willing

 to give, give us the push we need in the right direction. When the way

 is difficult and we are tempted to give up or give in, give us courage

 to keep going. In all that we do, we ask Your grace and guidance.

 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*

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**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.

 **Scripture:** Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

*The book of Jonah was a prophetic word to its time, challenging narrow*

 *vision and a view that limited God’s love to one people. It remains a*

 *challenge to us today, especially when we, too, try to define God’s grace*

 *by our own limitations.*

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

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

 Reflecting On The Word

**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:** ‘Amazing Grace’ ***VU 266***

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**♦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: Marilyn Harrison*

*Greeters & Ushers Dorothy Wiebe & Jean Leach*