Territory of the People

ASSEMBLY 2019

*********Build, Renew, and Strengthen***

***by Walking Together in Unity***

WORSHIP AND SESSION BOOKLET



*Front cover image: Glass window mosaic at St. Alban’s, Ashcroft*

*Marina Papais (International award-winning glass artist)*

*Daniel Collett (Ashcroft parishioner)*

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**FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP**

**St. John the Divine, Quesnel**

Officiant and Preacher: Archbishop Melissa Skelton

Other leadership by members of the South Rivers Region

*TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

We gather today on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene Nation. We acknowledge their care for and working of the land prior to contact with Europeans. As Canadian Anglicans, we continue to work toward healing and reconciliation and a new experience of sharing the land together. All my relations.

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER

I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift,

Though heavy, oft with drenching spray, and torn with many a rift;

If hope but light the water’s crest, and Christ my bark will use,

I’ll seek the seas at His behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears,

Until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years;

If cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be;

Lord, let me feel Thy freshening breeze, and I’ll put back to sea.

If ever I forget Thy love and how that love was shown,

Lift high the blood red flag above; it bears Thy name alone.

Great pilot of my onward way, Thou wilt not let me drift;

I feel the winds of God today, today my sail I lift

Traditional

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone,

standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,

’round whom all creation turns;

nothing lost, but held forever,

in God’s gracious arms.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,

so encompass great and small;

let our loving know no borders,

faithful to God’s call.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,

than we’ve ever dreamed before;

let the dream of Christ be in us,

open every door.

**Opening Responses**

Leader: Peace on each one who comes in need,  
**All: Peace on each one who comes in joy.**Leader: Peace on each one who offers prayers,  
**All: Peace on each one who offers song.**

Leader: Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,  
**All: Peace of the spirit, the triune one.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: Thanks be to you O Christ,

**All: For the many gifts you have bestowed on us,**

**each day and night, each sea and land,**

**each weather fair, each calm, each wild.**

Leader: Each night may we remember your mercy

given so gently and generously.

**All: Each thing we have received,**

**from you it came;**

**each thing for which we hope,**

**from your love it will come;**

**each thing we enjoy, it is of your bounty;**

**each thing we ask, comes of your disposing.**

Leader: O God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows,

**All: Grant that no tie over strict, no tie over dear,**

**may be between ourselves and this world, amen.**

**Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

**Praise him, sun and moon;**

**praise him, all you shining stars!**

**Praise him, you highest heavens,**

**and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them for ever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise the Lord from the earth,**

**you sea monsters and all deeps,**

**fire and hail, snow and frost,**

**stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples,**

**princes and all rulers of the earth!**

**Young men and women alike,**

**old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people,**

**praise for all his faithful,**

**for the people of Israel who are close to him.**

**Praise the Lord!**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

Leader: O God, as these words are read,

**ALL: IN OUR HEARTS MAY WE FEEL YOUR PRESENCE.**

**A Reading from Romans** (12:9-16a)

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly

Hear what the Spirit says to all people **Thanks be to God**

*Quiet reflection*

**A Reading from Luke’s Gospel** (1:39-57) *Please remain seated Canon Margaret Mitchell*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home. Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.

Hear what the Spirit says to all people **Thanks be to God**

WE SING TOGETHER

My soul proclaims your glory, Lord,

my spirit sings with thankful voice,

for you my lowly prayer have heard:

in you, my Saviour, I rejoice.

Nations unborn will bless your name,

giver of boundless grace to me,

in every age you are the same:

you make the humble whole and free.

You have made bare your mighty arm

to break the yoke of selfish power,

and lift your broken ones from harm,

bursting the gates of greed’s proud tower.

You fill the hungry mouths with food,

and show the poverty of wealth.

Your ancient vow you have made good,

and raised your children to new health.

Glory to God, all being’s Spring,

to God the Word, salvation’s voice,

to God the Spirit, praise we sing:

with all the ages we rejoice.

HOMILY: Archbishop Skelton

WE PRAY TOGETHER (*including the following*)

Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. We ask this in his name and for his sake. **Amen**.

Loving and Faithful God, through the ages, you have nourished your people who have come to you for guidance. Lead and direct us as we journey together, that we may discern the way ahead as Anglican Christians in this Territory we call our physical and spiritual home. By your Spirit, help us to preserve the best of what we have been, and strengthen us as a community of living saints to minister with eager hearts and wills. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Way, our Truth and our Life. **Amen**.

Almighty God, who looked with favour on your servant Mary, and called her to be the mother of your Son, nurture in us the humility and gentleness that found favour in your sight, that with her we may proclaim the greatness of your name and find the mercy you show to those who fear you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

THE LORD’S PRAYER As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your 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 for ever. Amen.**

WE SING TOGETHER

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,

from failing embers build a blazing fire;

love strong enough to overturn injustice,

to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,

your quiet presence all our fears dispel;

create a space for spirit to grow in us,

let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,

set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;

help us to open doors of understanding,

to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,

and in our weakness your great strength reveal;

that we may rise to follow and to serve,

steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,

to break the bread and share the cup of peace;

that we may love you with our heart, our soul,

our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

Words and music: Gordon Light, © 2002

DISMISSAL

Leader: Be the great God between our shoulders

To protect us in our going and our coming;

**All: May the Holy Spirit, which inhabited both Mary and Elizabeth;**

**Bless and encourage us, now and always**, **Amen**.