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The Very Rev. Ansley Tucker, Diocesan Administrator

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***“Together in Christ
we seek to love God and
to love and serve all others”***

July 12, 2020

Pentecost 6

Sunday Virtual Worship Service



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.

Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover presides & preaches.

Piano prelude: Let All Things Now Living

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: As we meet together, we begin by remembering the Lekwungen speaking people, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through the many generations. As we meet together, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent, whose joyful spirit embraces us. Now let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Scripture Sentence of the Day: The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can accomplish it.

Opening Hymn: CP 578 “O Healing River”

(© 1964, Appleseed Music Inc.)

Sung by Bill & Linda Van Sickle, Mary Wills

Oh healing river, send down your waters,
Send down your water upon this land.
Oh healing river, send down your waters,
And wash the blood from off the sand.

This land is parching, this land is burning,
no seed is growing in the barren ground.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

Let the seed of freedom awake and flourish,
let the deep roots nourish, let the tall stalks rise.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, from out of the skies.

Greeting:

The Creator has planted seeds in all of us,

May we nurture good deeds and loving-kindness.

Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit,

May we bless and build up others for the reign of God.

The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to grow

May we be nurtured, may we be blessed and may we grow in this time of worship.

Act of Praise: Poem “Rise Early” – Macrina Wiederkehr
(Seven Sacred Pauses (p. 64). Ave Maria Press. Kindle Edition.)

Antiphon: **All creation is a song of praise to God.**

Rise early
when morning darkness
still enwraps the trees.
Walk into the dark forest
with only your attentive heart.
Gaze toward the east,
take a deep breath, and wait.

After a short while you will see God
carrying a lantern through the forest,
bits of light bobbing up and down,
in and out, higher and higher,
the light climbs, spilling over
into the spaces between the leaves
and on into the world
beyond the forest.

Then the beautiful darkness
hands you over to the light.
It slips away reverently
into the bark of the tree trunks,
into the black earth,
into all those other countries
that wait for its return.

Lift your face to the daystar now.
Experience the coming of dawn.
Bathed in morning light, pray
that the lantern of your life
move gently this day
into all those places
where light is needed.

Antiphon: **All creation is a song of praise to God.**

Collect of the Day: God of the earth, **all creation awaits your gift of new life. Prepare our hearts to receive your Word so that it may grow within us and yield a hundredfold harvest; through Jesus Christ, the Sower. Amen.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat @ the Chancel

Song: "River Running in You and Me"

(Ian MacDonald & Gordon Light; © 2003 Common Cup Company)

River running in you and me,
Spirit of life, deep mystery.
Dancing down to the holy seas,
river run deep, river run free.

River laughed on my birthing day,
wind and water joined in play.
Soaked my soul in a shining spray
river run deep, river run free.

River singing in you and me,
Spirit of life, deep mystery.
Catch us up in your melody,
river run deep, river run free.

PSALM: 119: 105-112 (BAS Pg. 875)

Mary Wills

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.

I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgements.

I am deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgements.

My life is always in my hand,
yet I do not forget your law.

The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes
for ever and to the end.

Second Reading: *Romans 8:1-11*

Jose Perena Pratt

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: **MV 108 "I Know Your Word"**

(© 2000 General Board of Global Ministries)

Sung by Kathy Middleton & Azeita Harding

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.
(x2)

Gospel: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon:

Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover

Affirmation of Faith:

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family

in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith,

and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens us

with power from on high.

We believe in one God;

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold in prayer the needs of our sisters and brothers who are dear to us. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world.

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God. For families, friends, colleagues, neighbours, strangers, and those who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within each of us. That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us a right relationship with You, our Creator, and all Your Creation.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For the leaders of all the nations and for these cities of Colwood and Langford and all people, that our leaders may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, and with wisdom and grace. May they all reflect your will, guiding all their actions and decisions.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who serve in harms way, for those who live in dangerous places, for those who live in areas of war and strife, for those who live in fear, for those who worry about employment, bills, food, and for all who struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all your people.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who suffer from any illness or disease— be they diseases of mind, body, or spirit. On this sixth Sunday after Pentecost, we remember Alice, Carol Ann, Joan, Ethan, Rick and Barb, Dianne, Kian, Sheila, Maureen and Melissa. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—health as only you, O God, can bring. May your mercy shower down upon each of us with healing and love.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand to lift us up.

May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

Holy One, hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards of the fragile bounty of this earth so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution:

It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us pray our confession together:

Holy God, hear our prayer:

**For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;
For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;
For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;
For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;
We pray for the courage to admit our fault,
The strength to amend our actions,
And the hope that your grace awaits us.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing:

Shared Ministry:

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Commissioning Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus/ Yesu Kwetuni Rafiki"

(Arranged Mark Burrows)

Sung by Carolyn Hamar, Mary Wills, Anthea Brown, Gemma Hamblin

Commissioning:

In the name of the God who creates see and calls each one good;

In the name of the God who knows the dangers of weeds and thorns;

In the name of the God who carries safely to good soil, now and forever;

In the name of the God go forth from this place to blossom and bear fruit. Amen.

TODAY WE PRAY

Pray for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

Ansley our Diocesan Administrator, Sandra our Rector, & Paul our Associate Priest.

For S. John Gualbert, Pt. McNeill & Diocese of Caledonia.

In the Selkirk Region for Ecumenical & Inter-faith partners.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Today, we remember Ethan, Dianne, Rick & Barb, Sheila, Kian, Alice, Carol Ann, Joan, Maureen,
Melissa.*

We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.