

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the
United Churches of Canada
August 2nd, 2020**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Words of Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Announcements
from Each Congregation**

Announcement from United Church Earth Stewards
Rita Green. Tree Funds project.

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship
Today's Leadership included**

Preacher: The Rev Tim Bowman
Presiding: The Rev. Bill Booth
The Rev. Tracy Fairfield
Musician – Donna Poncelet
Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Lighting the Christ Candle for Each Congregation

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation: **Tracy**

Jesus, you looked on the crowds with compassion. You saw their hurts and heartaches. You understood their suffering and sadness.

You felt their longing and need.

And in contrast to imperial brutality and systemic inequality, you offered kindness and respect with no thought of reciprocity. Teach us your way.

Teach us your way.

Jesus, you told the disciples to feed the crowds.

You encourage them to change their assumptions.

You challenged them to serve. You empowered them to act.

And in comparison, to "lone ranger" leadership and pedestal posturing, your disciples became your hands and feet, feeding the hungry.

They comforted the afflicted as the Body of Christ.

Show us your way.

Show us your way.

Jesus, you made manna out of five loaves and two fish.

You believed in abundance. You trusted in God's bounty and blessing.

You had faith in possibility and promise.

Despite the evidence of scarcity and meagerness, you allowed the miracle of sharing to prevail.

You fostered the mystery of communion.

You took, blessed, broke, and gave the bread of heaven.

surprise us with such manifestations of your realm.

Open us to the fullness of life. Bless us with your continuing love.

Amen.

Written and shared with permission by Ted Dodd.

Hymn: “All Who Are Thirsty” MV 4

*All who are thirsty, all who are weak come to the fountain.
Dip your heart in the stream of life let the pain and
the sorrow be washed away*

In the waves of His mercy, as deep cries out to deep

We sing:

Come Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come

Come Lord Jesus come , Come Lord Jesus come

All who are thirsty, all who are weak. Come to the fountain.

*Dip your heart in the stream of life let the pain and the sorrow be washed
away*

In the waves of His mercy, as deep cries out to deep

We sing:

Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come

Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come

Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

As deep cries out to deep

We sing:

Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come

Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come

Learning With Our Children: **Bill**

Song: MV 104 “Know that God is Good”

Know that God is good, Know that God is good,

Know that God is good, God is good, God is good. X 2

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 55:1-5

55Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering: VU 702 "When a Poor One"

*When a poor one who has nothing shares with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,*

**R) Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

*When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us, R)*

*When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple this is better R),*

*When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, R)*

Sermon: **Tim**

Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation" VU 660

*How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.*

*"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be with you, your troubles to
bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.*

*“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you: I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.*

*“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!”*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayer of Grace Tim

God of abundance, you have promised to provide us with more than mere survival; in seeking to satisfy our deepest hungers, we shall find an even more profound sustenance than human imagination could envision.

In your holy love, you have given us so much: talents and treasure in unlimited supply. But often, we spend these on superficial needs. We throw away our plenty on little hungers and petty desires. We seek the fleeting delight of novelty, of prettiness, and of veneer. We follow the urges to momentary importance, to the notice of a fickle society more interested in noise and sparkle than in mundane sturdiness. We chase after happiness while neglecting joy; we chase after romance while neglecting love; we skim the surface while fearing the depths.

God of grace, we are hungry. God of mercy quench our thirst.

Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we rely more upon our own human illusions of control and satisfaction, even though we know that these illusions separate us from you. Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, in the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation. In Christ, may we learn to love you more than we love ourselves.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance Tim

Come, all you who are thirsty. If you take the first step, if you are willing to plunge once again into the waters and to emerge into new life, you will receive a love beyond all you can envision.

We turn our hearts to God, and by grace our hungers are satisfied, our thirsts are quenched; through Christ we are made whole; by the Spirit we are led forth as God's people. Amen.

Sung Response: “Listen to Your Children Praying.” VU 400

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love send us power, send us grace!*

Prayers of the World Bill

Prayers of the People: From Chat shared prayers. **Bill**

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we sing together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Sung] VU 960

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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, For
ever and ever. Amen

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: **Bill**

Prayer of Dedication: **Bill**

These are the gifts of God, given for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn: "You Shall Go Out with Joy" VU 884 (X 3)

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth
with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!*

*And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.*

Commissioning and Benediction: **Tim**

Sung Response: "Go on your way in Joy"

Go on your way in joy, my friends, Go on your way in joy my friends.
Go on your way in joy my friends.
Let your left foot say "Glory" and your right say "Amen" X 2

Postlude

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