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*The Very Rev. Ansley Tucker, Diocesan Administrator*

*The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest*

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

October 18, 2020

Pentecost 20

### 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. Dr. Paul Schumacher presides & William Geimer preaches.*

*Organ prelude - Nell Howard*

## **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.

**Welcome:** Good morning and welcome to this service of worship on the twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. My name is Paul Schumacher and I am the interim priest-in-charge during this time of transition, here at the Church of The Advent.

We invite you to come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses and your fears. Come and join our readers, prayer leaders, music director and choir members, along with our technical team, as we offer prayer and praise to our Creator. For God loves us all and all are welcome in this space.

**Scripture Sentence of the Day:** Scripture shares with us, Scripture shares with us, “Shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life.”

### **Opening Hymn: CP 465 “Here in This Place”**

(© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.)

Here in this place new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in - the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old – who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung through – out all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in – the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in – all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Act of Praise:** A Prayer (*from the green BAS book*)

Please join me in the spirit of this prayer:

Creator of the universe, we thank you for all your blessings, for life and health, for laughter and fun, for our powers of mind and body, for our homes and the love of those near and dear to us, and for everything that is beautiful, good and true. But above all, we thank you for giving your Son to be our Saviour and Friend. May we always find our true happiness in pleasing you and helping others to know and love you, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Collect of the Day:**

Almighty and everliving God,

**Increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

### Chat @ the Chancel:

#### Song: G 597 "This Little Light of Mine"

(Henry Dixon Loes, Harmony Horace C. Boyer © 1992)

This little light of mine I'm gonna make it shine,  
This little light of mine I'm gonna make it shine;  
This little light of mine I'm gonna make it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

#### Psalm: 106:1-6, 19-23 (BAS Pg. 849)

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord \*  
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice \*  
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favour you have  
for your people, \*  
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people, \*  
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; \*  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
and worshipped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

21 They forgot God their saviour, \*  
who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, \*  
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with 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: G 823 The Peace of God (Let Your Gentleness Be Known)**

Sung by Nell Howard

***Refrain:***

***Let your gentleness be known,  
so all may know the Lord is near.  
Do not worry, do not worry;  
reach out to God in prayer.  
Stay with all that you have learned,  
and all that you have heard and seen,  
And the peace of God,  
the peace of God will be with you.***

Whatever is true, whatever is just,  
all that is pure and pleasing,  
and all that is worthy of praise:  
Think on these things. ***(Refrain)***

And the peace of God, the peace of God  
beyond all understanding,  
will guard your hearts, and guide  
your minds in Christ Jesus. ***(Refrain)***

**Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

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**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’’

And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon:**

**William Geimer**

**Affirmation of Faith:**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Prayers of the People

Lord, may I pray not because I want something from You, but always because I want You.

I will end each petition with "Holy and Compassionate God"

Please respond with "**Hear Our Prayers**"

God, as you gave us the sun to lighten our days, so you have given us your Word to lighten our minds and our souls. We pray that you will pour out on us your Spirit as we pray today, that our hearts and minds may be opened to your Word, and that we may learn and accept your will for our life.

Shine within our hearts, loving God, the pure light of your divine knowledge; open the eyes of our minds and the ears of our hearts to receive your Word, this day and always.

Holy and Compassionate God. **Hear our Prayers**

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence; give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy and Compassionate God. **Hear our Prayers**

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers, we pray for those we know need our prayers and we pray for who have no one to pray for them. We ask that you hold them in Your healing hands. You alone know their needs Lord. We pray for Dianne, Sheila, Alice, Maureen, and any others you wish to pray for either out loud or silently in you heart and mind.

Holy and Compassionate God. **Hear our Prayers**

Loving Father, we pray for all who mourn.

We pray for the family and friends of Adrian Harding especially his mother Azeita. We ask that they find comfort in You. We ask for your strength for them in their time of need. Let them know they are loved and wrap them in the love of You. Holy Father we ask that all people who mourn feel your warmth, your gentle hands upon them.

Holy and Compassionate God. **Hear our Prayers**

God, Your light, lights our lives.

We pray that its reflection will warm those around us and show them just who You are.

Amen!

**Confession and Absolution:** Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to share in his forgiveness. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Our Lord, 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:**

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, our Creator,  
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.  
And may the blessing of the God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and  
forever more. Amen.

**Shared Ministry:**

**Commissioning Hymn: CP 509 "Precise Lord Take My Hand**

(1938 © – Hill and Range Songs, Unichappell Music, Inc.)

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand; guide my feet, hold my hand:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

**Commissioning:** May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ go with you: wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you: may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors. **Amen.**

**TODAY WE PRAY**

*Pray for the Episcopal Church*

*Pray for Ansley our Diocesan Administrator, & Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge.*

*For S. Luke, Victoria.*

*In the Selkirk Region for Holy Trinity Sooke.*

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM**

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

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