***We acknowledge these lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, cultural, traditional and unceded lands***

***of the Musqueam***, *Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

♦ Please stand where indicated, as you are able & comfortable

Congregational responses are in **bold**

**West Point Grey United Church: Vancouver, BC**

**A Celebration of Worship**

**Season of Creation- C**

**Storm Sunday**

**September 25th, 2016**

**This morning we continue with the Season of Creation. Our focus this morning is ‘Storm Sunday’. Storm refers to the world of the weather, the gales, the lighting, the winds, the cyclones, the hurricanes, the downpours and the floods. Storm means both nature in the raw and the weather we need to renew our planet. Storms may be events that frighten us, but they are also events that we celebrate in the weather cycle that sustain Earth as a living planet.**

**My profession is always to be alert, to find God in nature, to know God's lurking places, to attend to all the oratorios and the operas in nature.** *Henry David Thoreau*

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♪ **Prelude**

 **Welcome and Announcements**

 **Preparing Our Hearts For Worship**

***Gather now into this sacred circle.***

***Here, with courage, we see our lives as part of
the continually astonishing mystery of life.***

***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...***

**Gathered By The Spirit**

**♦♪ Introit:**  ***VU 395***

*Come in, come in and sit down. You are a part of the family.*

 *We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.*

 *You know the reason why you came;*

 *yet no reason can explain;*

 *so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,*

 *for we are a part of the family.*

*Come in, come in and sit down. You are a part of the family.*

 *We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.*

 **Gathering for Worship**:

 Welcome! We worship this Sunday with the storm. We sing with the the wild winds and the dark clouds, the lightning flash and the thunder roll; the fierce gales and blinding rains, the crashing waves and swaying trees. And we celebrate God’s presence in the midst.

  *0ver …..*

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 On this ‘storm Sunday’ in the Season of Creation, we invite the elements of storm to be present with us:

 rain – (rainsticks (3) and tapping on knees)

 thunder (thunder maker and slow clap of hands)

 wind (sound of wind in mike)

 hail (maracas, bongos and sound of pounding feet on floor)

 sound of storm – all sounds together / followed by silence *(will give signals to indicate increased intensity as well as when to stop)*

 Where is God in the midst of the storms of life?

 Let our worship open our hearts and minds to seeking insights.

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

 **Prayer**

**In a world where there is so much uncertainty, chaos and change, Sacred Spirit, we look for words of wisdom and hope to see us**

**through the storms of life. Open us to Your assurance, challenge and nourishment for the journey as we seek to walk in Your way,**

**following in the footsteps of Jesus, who taught us to pray:**

**“Our Father …..” Amen *VU 921***

 **Time With The Young and Young At Heart**

**♦ Sharing The Peace of Christ:**

Our First Nations brothers and sisters remind us that all parts of God’s creation are connected. To remember and honour that teaching, you are invited to share the peace of Christ with the Aboriginal greeting

 ‘*All My Relations*’ or simply ‘*peace*’ in whichever language you are comfortable.

**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.*

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♪ **Sung Prayer for Illumination***:* *(vs. 2)* ***VU 297***

 *With wondrous grace You clothed the earth in splendour;*

 *with teeming life You filled the sea and land.*

*Instil in us a sense of awe and wonder*

 *when we behold the bounty of your hand.*

 *Then when we hear the voice of bird or thunder,*

 *we hear the voice our faith can understand.*

 **Congregational Reading:** Psalm 29 (paraphrase from the *Message*)

In awe before the glory, in awe before God’s visible power - stand at attention!
 **God thunders across the waters - brilliant, God’s voice and face, streaming brightness—** God, across the flood waters. God’s thunder tympanic, God’s thunder symphonic.

 **The mountain ranges skip like spring colts. The high ridges jump like wild kid goats.**

God’s thunder spits fire. God thunders and the wilderness quakes;
 God makes the desert of Kadesh shake.

**God’s thunder sets the oak trees dancing - a wild dance, whirling; the pelting rain stripping their branches.**

 We fall to our knees—and cry, “Glory!”

**Above the floodwaters is God’s throne, from which God’s power flows, from which God rules the world.**

 God makes the people strong. God gives the people peace.

 **Scripture:** Mark 4: 35-41 *Reader: Dorothy Wiebe*

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

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

♪ **Hymn:** ‘Put Your Hand In The Hand’ *Nick Sommer*

 Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters;

 Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea;

 Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others differently,

 by putting your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee.

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 **Hosting The Word**

 **Reflection Time:** *Reflect for a moment on the ‘storms’ in your life,*

 *and discern God’s good news for you today.*

♪ **Sung Assurance: ‘**Don’t Be Afraid’ (x3) ***MV 90***

**Strengthened For The Journey**

♪ **Offertory**

**♦♪**  **Presentation of Our Gifts: *MV 135***

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.*

*This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,*

*called by earth and sky.*

**Prayers of the People** *Sharon Lowe*

**♦♪ Hymn**: ‘Will Your Anchor Hold In The Storms Of Life’ ***VU 675***

**♦ Blessing As We Go Forth**

**♪ Choral Blessing**: ‘Ameni’ *(S. Africa)* ***MV 219***

***Ameni, ameni, amen, amen, ameni***

**♪ Postlude**