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

***of the Səl̓ílwətaʔ,  Xʷməθkwəy̓əm, & Sḵwx̱wú7meshsi,***

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

***West Point Grey United Church is a safe place for all people to worship***

***regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation***

**West Point Grey United Church**

**Vancouver, BC**

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

***Congregational responses are in bold***

**A Celebration of Worship and Farewell**

**May 27th, 2018**

**♪ Prelude**

 **Welcome and Announcements**

 **Preparing Our Hearts For Worship**

*(gathering words will be followed by a time of silence,*

*ending with the chiming of the singing bowl)*

***Let silence be placed around us now, like a mantle.***

***Let us enter into it, where stillness reigns***

***and God is present.***

**Gathered By The Spirit**

 **Acknowledging The Territory / Lighting the Christ Candle**

*We recognize the lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, traditional and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and*

 *Tsleil-Waututh people, and light a candle for the ongoing work of*

*reconciliation with all our First Nations sisters and brothers.*

 *And we light our Christ candle, remembering the One who walked*

 *among us and is with us still – Jesus, the Light of the World.*

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♪ **Introit: *MV 59***

*Alleluia, praise to God! Alleluia, praise to God!*

*Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.*

*Alleluia, praise to God!*

*Songs of joy sing out to God. Songs of joy sing out to God.*

*Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God.*

*Songs of joy sing out to God!*

*Beat the drums, sing out to God. Beat the drums, sing out to God!*

*Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God!*

*beat the drums, sing out to God!*

*Alleluia, praise to God! Alleluia, praise to God!*

*Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.*

*Alleluia, praise to God!*

 **Words of Gathering**

**♦**♪ **Hymn:** ‘God Of The Bible’ *(omit vs.4)* ***MV 28***

 **Prayer of Gathering:**

 O God, the provisions You give for the journey have always been

 simple: something to eat, a path to follow, companions on the way, and a star to guide.

 **Wherever we go, whatever we do, remind us, God,**

 **of life’s necessities: Your great love for us, our love**

 **for You, and the opportunity to cherish each other.**

 We join our voices together, a symphony of cultures and languages, singing the words that Jesus taught: ***VU 959***

 **Sharing the Peace of Christ With Each Other**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

****

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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.***

♪ **Prayer for Illumination: *MV 85***

*Take, O take me as I am, summon out what I shall be;*

*set Your seal upon my heart, and live in me.*

 **Hebrew Scripture:** Jeremiah 29: 11-14a

*We are reminded to trust that the future is in God’s hands.*

♪ **Hymn:**  ‘In The Bulb, There Is A Flower’ ***VU 703***

 **Gospel:** Luke 24: 44-53 *Reader: Marilyn Harrison*

*At his ascension, Jesus offers a final blessing.*

 **Reflecting On The Word**

 **Prayers of the People:** *Cathie Perry*

 ♪ **Offertory**

**♦**♪ **Presentation of Our Gifts**: ***VU 376***

*Spirit of the living God, move among us all;*

*make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:*

*humble, caring, selfless, sharing,*

*Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!*

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Litany of Closure and Farewell

 Our church, like any community, changes. Babies are born.

 Children grow up. Loved ones and friends grow old. People move

 into our community and church. Others leave us, moving on to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. Let us not forget

 that the ministry in this place is Christ's ministry, entrusted to us as part of his Body. Our ministry belongs to Jesus and is ongoing.

 When a minister comes into our church, we covenant with one another; we promise to walk together as God's People, deepening

 our commitment to Jesus Christ and growing closer to God. God's covenant with us never changes, but our covenants with one another do change.

 We gather now to mark the ending of the covenant that began on

 August 1, 2006 between Rev. Valerie Taylor and West Point Grey

 United Church*,* giving thanks for the life we have shared together

 in Christ. It is also time for us to begin the next stage of the journey

 to which God now calls each of us.

**Prayer**

 O God, we give you thanks for the time and the faith shared in this community. We especially give you thanks for the faithful ministry of Rev. Val in our midst. We thank you for the creative and meaningful worship, for our spiritual growth and learning, and the service and ministry that have been ours together. Be with us now

 as we mark the end of this relationship, and guide us by your Spirit into the next stage of our lives with you. Amen.

Recognition of Symbols of Ministry

***Rev. Val*:** Friends, you called me into your midst twelve years ago,

 to serve with you in the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

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Bible:

 This Bible is the symbol of the ministry of the Word among us.

 May God’s Word continue to challenge, nurture, and inspire you.

 We will continue to place scripture at the centre of our life.

 The Word of God lives among us. Thanks be to God.

Water

 The font is the symbol of our baptism. May you continue to welcome

 new members through the Living Waters of our faith.

 We will continue to celebrate new life in baptism;

 the font of blessing welcomes all. Thanks be to God.

Loaf and cup

 The table is the symbol of our communion in Christ, the source of

 our nourishment and strength. May you continue to share the bread

 and the cup, remembering the One who is the Bread of Life and the

 True Vine.

 We will continue to break the bread and share the cup;

 inviting all to the Table in welcome and in joy. Thanks be

 to God.

Towel and basin

 The towel and basin are the symbols of our calling to justice and service, according to the example of Jesus, who washed the feet of

 his friends. May you continue to walk the way of the cross of Christ

 in love, justice and compassion.

 We will continue to serve others and to work for justice,

 following in the way of Jesus, Compassionate Friend

 and Servant of all. Thanks be to God.

Church Directory and Photo Album

 As a congregation we are called to love and serve each other,

 to care and to heal, to teach and to witness to the Word.

 May you continue to love one another as God has loved you.

 We will continue to offer care, challenge, and encouragement

 to one another, sharing all that we are and have in love and faith. Thanks be to God.

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***Hymn Books***

These hymn books are symbols of the ministry of music at West

 Point Grey. May you continue to rejoice in singing and praising

 God through music.

 **We will continue to join our voices together to make a joyful**

 **noise unto the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

***Chinese Bible***

This Chinese Bible is a symbol of welcome, inclusion, and exploring

 the richness that different cultures bring to our midst.

 **We will continue to celebrate our diversity, and grow together**

 **in our understanding of one another, and of God.**

Keys

 These keys are a symbol of our daily duties and the work of administration; and of this building, a witness to Christ’s presence

 in this community. May your light continue to shine in this place.

 The keys are given to the Chair of Council

 We will continue to build, to dream and to grow,

 discerning the will of God for us in our time and place.

 Thanks be to God.

Sustenance For The Journey

Holy Communion

 *(This is a Table of welcome to which everyone is invited – young or old,*

 *faith-filled or seeker. It is the place where we are met with grace,*

 *and nourished for the journey of faith.*

 *Communion will be served in the pews. Please hold each element until all are served so that we can share together. Rice crackers are available in the paper cups for those on gluten- restricted diets.)*

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 Invitation to Communion

♪ Hymn: ‘Let Us Talents And Tongues’  *(vss 1 & 2)* *VU 468*

Breaking the Bread / Lifting The Cup

Sharing The Gifts

Marking the End of the Covenanted Ministry

Chair of Council: Elizabeth Tait

On August 1st, 2006, West Point Grey United Church called the

Rev. Valerie Taylor to serve as Minister of Word, Sacrament

and Pastoral Care.

Rev. Val

Members and friends of West Point Grey United Church, I thank you

for your love, kindness, and support during these past 12 years.

I am grateful for the joys, the challenges, the surprises, and for the opportunities to grow together in Christ that we have shared.

I ask you for your forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

congregation

 We receive your thankfulness and offer our forgiveness.

 We ask you to forgive us for our mistakes. We are grateful

 for your guidance and your gifts, and your presence and

 ministry among us.

Chair of Council: Elizabeth Tait

invite members and friends of the congregation to stand as they are able.

Will you, the members and friends of West Point Grey United Church

release Rev. Val from the duties of the ministry of Word, Sacrament

and Pastoral Care in this place?

 We will, with gratitude and trust in God’s grace.

Will you respect the new relationship that begins with the calling of

a new Coordinating Minister, and offer your encouragement and prayers

to Rev. Val as she follows the leading the Spirit elsewhere?

 We will, with gratitude and trust in God’s grace.

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***Chair of Council to Rev. Val***

Will you, Rev. Val, release West Point Grey United Church from their dependence upon you as a minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care?

 I will, with gratitude and trust in God’s grace.

Will you respect the new relationship that now begins and offer your encouragement and prayers for their continued ministry here?

 I will, with gratitude and trust in God’s grace.

***Rev. Val***

I thank you, friends and members of West Point GreyUnited Church

for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered

among and with you. Let us not forget that the ministry in this place

is Christ's ministry, entrusted to us as part of his body and is always

on going. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted and supported. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned and received here. And I will pray for you and for your new ministry personnel.

congregation

 We are grateful for your time and ministry among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure. With deep gratitude, we release you from your duties of ministry in our midst and offer you our love, and our blessing as you move on from here.

**All: Holy God, your love for all is everlasting. Help each of us to**

 **trust in the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name provided laughter and tears, challenges and joys. Guide us as we hold on to these cherished memories and move forward in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ. Amen**

**♦**♪ **Hymn:** ‘Here I Am, Lord’ ***VU 509***

 **Blessing As We Go Forth**

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**♦**♪ **Choral Blessing** ***VU 884***

*You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace;*

*the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;*

*there’s 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 (x x)*

*the trees of the field will clap their hands (x x)*

*the trees of the field will clap their hands (x x)*

*while you go out with joy.*

♪ Postlude

Welcome to West Point Grey United Church

***Welcome to West Point Grey. May you find here a warm community of Christian friends, a place of encounter with the Sacred, and encouragement for the journey of faith. In the entry to the church, you will find copies of the worship service bulletin – in regular and large print, as well as large-print hymns. There are also copies of the sermon translated into Mandarin. Children are invited to go out for JAM (Jesus and Me children’s program) following the passing of the peace. Following worship, you are invited to a time of refreshment in the community hall.***

Minister: Rev. Valerie Taylor

Director of Music: Dr. Eileen Padgett

Office Administrator: Janis Terrien 604-224-4388

Intercultural Coordinator: Linda Liang

Website: [www.wpguc.com](http://www.wpguc.com)

Reader: Marilyn Harrison

 Prayer Leader: Cathie Perry

Ushers: Elizabeth Tait and Jean Leach.

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