***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**

**4th Sunday of Easter – Earth Day**

**April 22nd, 2018**

 **Prelude**

 **Sharing The Life Of The Congregation**

 **Silence, As We Prepare Our Hearts For Worship**

***In this sacred space, in this moment of silence,***

***leave your daily concerns aside.***

***For here we recall the stories of faith, here we see***

***the extraordinary in the ordinary, here we hear good news,***

 ***and remember whose we are.***

 *(a time of silence, ending with the chiming of the singing bowl)*

 **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.*

**-2-**

**Gathered By The Risen Christ**

♪ **Introit:** ***VU 415***

 God, we praise You for the morning;

 hope springs forth with each new day,

 new beginning, prayer, and promise,

 joy in work and in play.

 God, we praise You for the Saviour,

 come that we may know Your ways.

 In his loving, dying, rising,

 Christ is Lord of our days!

 **Words of Gathering**: *Adapted from Sealth (Chief Seattle), 1854*

 Every part of the earth is sacred, every shining pine needle, every sandy shore. every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy.

 **The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all the people, all belong to the same family.**

 Teach your children that the earth is our mother; whatever befalls

 the earth befalls the children of the earth.

 **The water’s murmur is the voice of our father’s father,**

 **we are part of the earth, and the earth is part of us.**

 The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.

 The perfumed flowers are our sisters.

 **The air is precious, for all of us share the same breath.**

 **The wind that gave our grandparents breath also receives their last sigh. The wind gave our children the spirit of life.**

 This we know: the earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth.

 **This we know: all things are connected, like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.**

 For we did not weave the web of life: we are merely a strand in it.

 **Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.**

 Let us give thanks for the web in the circle that connects us.

 **Thanks be to the Creator of all!**

**♦**♪ **Hymn:** ‘It’s A Song Of Praise To The Maker’ ***MV 30***

-3-

 **Prayer of Gathering:**

Like the steep face of a snowy peak, Your mystery brings us to a place

 of wonder and stillness. As we quiet our hearts in this time of

 worship,

 **hear our prayers, God of all creation.**

Like the beauty of sun and cloud, playing with rocky heights, Your gifts

 fill us with grace. As our hearts respond with gratitude,

 **hear our prayers, God of all creation.**

Like turbulent storms that dash against high ridges and cliffs, our

 days can sometimes be chaotic and challenging. As our hearts hold

 these concerns,

 **hear our prayers, God of all creation.**

Like the view from a summit, You remind us to hold on to visions

 and dreams larger than ourselves. As our hearts dream these

 possibilities,

 **hear our prayers, God of all creation.**

As we worship this morning, remind us that You, O God, are our

 holy mountain of strength.

 **you reveal Your love to us in countless ways;**

 **You receive every prayer that is offered;**

 **You call us to live our lives with imagination and courage.**

Touch our hearts by Your presence this day, and in the days to

 come. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, whose prayer

 we share together in the language we know best ….

 “Our Father … Amen.

 **Welcome to the Family of Faith**: Sharon Lowe *(Council rep)*

*Wilf Owens-Whalen, Michel Bonin*

*Elizabeth Tait, Graham Farstad*

**♦**  **Sharing The Peace:** *‘All My Relations’*

As a way of recognizing the interconnectedness of all creation,

let us join in the tradition First Nations greeting: “***All my relations***!”

**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.***

-4-

 **Prayer for Illumination:** *(together)*

 As the stars illumine the heavens, so may Your Word give light and

 wisdom for our lives that we may live with respect for all Your

 creation and for all people with whom we share this planet earth.

 Amen

 **Congregational Reading: Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to

 lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

**He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

 I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff

 they comfort me.

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of**

 **mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil;**

 **my cup runneth over.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

♪ ***Refrain***: ***VU 747***

 *Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,*

 *and in God’s house forevermore, my dwelling place shall be.*

 Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-5 *‘Standing on holy ground’*

♪ **Hymn:** ‘Hey Ney Yana’ ***MV 217***

 **Reflecting On The Word***: ‘Standing On Holy Ground’*

Video Reflection*: ‘Singing And Dancing With The Land’*

 *(produced by the youth of Klemtu, whose traditional land is in*

 *the Great Bear Rainforest)*

-5-

**Our Joyful Response**

♪ **Offertory**:

♪ **Presentation of Our Gifts:** ***VU 307***

 ***Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,***

 ***nourish the life of the world in our care:***

 ***gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,***

 ***trust for the children, tomorrow will bear.***

 ***God of all living, God of all loving,***

 ***God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,***

 ***teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us,***

 ***using us gently and making us one.***

 **Prayers of Concern and Celebration**

 *After each petition: God of Easter ….* ***Hear our prayer****.*

♪**♦**  **Hymn**: ‘’We’ve Got The Whole World’

**1. We've got the whole world in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.

2. We've got our brothers and our sisters in our hands.
 We've got our brothers and our sisters in our hands.
 We've got our brothers and our sisters in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.**

**3. We've got the earth and the water in our hands.
 We've got the mountains and the valleys in our hands.
 We've got the oceans and the rivers in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.**

**4. We’ve got the sun and the rain in our hands,**

 **We’ve got the moon and the stars in our hands;**

 **We’ve got the birds and the whales in our hands;**

 **We’ve got the whole world in our hands.**

 **-6-**

**5. We've got the whole world in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.
 We've got the whole world in our hands.**

**Blessing As We Go Forth**

♪ **Choral Blessing:**  ***VU 217***

***Hey ney ya-na, hey ney ya-na, hey ney ya-na,***

***hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo.***

I leave in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,

I sleep in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,

 I dream of beauty, hey ya hey yo, hey ya, hey yo. *chorus*

♪ **Postlude**

Welcome to West Point Grey United Church

***Welcome to all in this beautiful Season of Eastertide. May you find here a warm community of Christian friends, a place of encounter with the Sacred, and encouragement for the way 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. Please feel at home, and among friends. Children are invited to go out with Debra Dawes for JAM (Jesus and Me children’s program) following the passing of the peace.***

*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)

*Readers: Reconciliation Group*

*Greeters & Ushers: Jean Leach and Susan Ranta*

