

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday February 14th, 2021
The Last Sunday after Epiphany
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

www.squamishanglicanchurch.ca info@squamishanglicanchurch.ca

1930 Diamond Road, Squamish

Phone number: 604-898-5100



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.
And again.*

The Gathering of the Community

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All: And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

All We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

**All 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.**

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

Sing hallelujah to our God,
Sing out in glad and glorious praise;
Let "Holy holy" be your song
With all your heart, through all your days,
For holy is the name we know
In highest heaven and earth below,
Creator, Father, Mother blest
In whom all parents end their quest.

Sing hallelujah to the Son,
By word and deed his love proclaim,
In whom all sons their sonship find
And every daughter knows her name,
O praise with loud and joyful songs
The Child to whom each child belongs,
The Lamb, who to the Father brings,
All living, dying, helpless things.

Sing hallelujah, raise the hymn
To Holy Spirit, God of grace
Who, binding all the church in one,
Awakens hearts in every place;
That every family may find
In unity of humankind
The only truth that sets us free,
The love that serves eternally.

Text: Rosemary Anne Benwell, SSJD

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The Collect of the Day

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

God of glory, by the grace of your Spirit, reveal your Son to us now in the message of the prophets and in the witness of the apostles, so that we may heed his voice and receive him in faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will

not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God reveals himself in glory.

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

He calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgement of his people.

"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;
for God himself is judge.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the

knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Acclamation: Alleluia

CP #712

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed

Leader Let us confess our faith 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

The Prayers of the People

Offertory Hymn: Jesus on the Mountain Peak

CP #169

Jesus, on the mountain peak,
stands alone in glory blazing.
Let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising.
Alleluia!

Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting:
Alleluia!

Swift the cloud of glory came,
God, proclaiming in its thunder,
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder:
Alleluia!

Jesus is the chosen One,
living hope of ev'ry nation,
hear and heed him, ev'ryone;
sing, with earth and all creation:
Alleluia!

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Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
All **Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

Leader Glory to God
All **whose power, working in us,
 can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
 Glory to God from generation to generation,
 in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen**

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
All of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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St. John the Divine Prayers for February 14th, 2021

The Church

The Deanery of North Vancouver - The Reverend Patrick Blaney,
Regional Dean

The Eco-Justice Unit - The Reverend Margaret Marquardt, The Reverend
Gail Newell

The Administrators of the Anglican Initiatives Fund

St. John the Divine, Squamish – The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

Immediate Prayer Requests

Clive, Nina, Ed, Rob, Jessica, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women’s Centre, the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of Squamish General Hospital.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.

Rector’s Reflection

All good things must come to an end. In this, my final reflection on the Apostles’ Creed, we wonder about this last section, which addresses the third person of the Trinity – the Holy Spirit. Or does it? The Holy Spirit seems to be mentioned only in passing, then we move on to some seemingly unrelated pieces tacked on to the end. Or is it?!?! We will see!

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

What sort of God do I believe in, do I trust? The word for ‘spirit’ in Hebrew, the *ruach* of God, is feminine. And so, for me, the Holy Spirit is an important reminder that in all genders, all parts of humanity, the image of God can be found reflected (Genesis 1:27)

The holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

The word 'catholic' just means universal. We are part of something bigger than just ourselves or just St. John's, a universal body, a communion – a community – of saints. We are not alone. This is the Spirit's work, I think, moving, energizing, and connecting God's great family through time and space.

The resurrection of the body,

Is there a bodily resurrection? Some Christians believe so, literally. Others do not. If you do, that's OK. If you don't, that's also OK. This statement has been a challenge for my 'rational,' 'scientific' mind at times. However, as I have mulled over and prayed with the creed over the years, I have found something more important for me in these 5 words. Our bodies matter. Our bodies are good. Our bodies are part of God's work in the world. This is important because Christians have had a bad habit of vilifying the physical, especially the body – the "flesh," but we don't need to. Our bodies are beautiful, good, holy, and part of God's plan for us. You may have noticed that at this point in the creed I make the sign of the cross over myself in our service. This is a part of my own practice, a blessing, a sign of love – mine and God's – for the gift of this collection of cells, organs and tissues that is me.

And the life everlasting.

I do not know what happens after death, but followers of Jesus have shared that Christian hope since the beginning, that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38). When I say this, that's what I think of, that the love and care that God has for us will never end – the Spirit will never stop pursuing us. It is a hope I rest in.

I think that is all I have to say about the Apostles' Creed! Thank you for sticking with me over the past weeks. It has been a gift for me to spend a little time with this thing that I have prayed so often. I hope there was gift in it for you as well.

Thank you, and thanks be to God!

CG+