



1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 – Pentecost 15  
Communion

**Greeter:** **Wendy**

**Meditation Song: Holy holy holy** (TIS 723)  
*(please remain seated)*

Holy, holy, holy.  
My heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart knows how to say to you:  
Holy are you Lord.  
(x3)

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Christ Candle:**

We light this light to remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

**As we light this light, we remember that God; Creator, Christ and Spirit is present among us.**

### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples:**

As we gather, we recognise that this land is sacred land, this land is holy ground.

We acknowledge the First Peoples of this land on which we worship God today, the Gadigal and Wangal people. We honour them for their custodianship of sacred stories, of dreamings and connections with the deep earth and oceans.

**We pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging and commit to walking with them for justice and reconciliation.**

### **Call to Worship: (*Season of Creation*)**

Our land is alive with the glory of God  
**desert sands hum and gum trees dance.**

Brown grasses sing

**and mountains breathe their stillness.**

All created things add their rhythms of delight

**and even the stones shout out their praise.**

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;

**may our hearts join the beat of her joy,**

for the Holy One is with us;

the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.

Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.

The Spirit moves within and between us.

**Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Come to us, God of unity.

Come with your forgiveness and your healing grace.

Come, that we may witness to reconciliation in a divide world;

that we may gather around Christ's table as one people;

that we may affirm your hope, your love, your peace.

**Come to us God of unity.**

**Amen**

## **Hymn: For the beauty of the earth (TIS 137)**

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild.  
[Refrain ]

3 For each perfect gift divine  
to the world so freely given,  
graces all of your design,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.  
[Refrain]

4 For the church that evermore,  
lifting holy hands above,  
offers up on every shore  
the pure sacrifice of love.  
[Refrain]

## **Prayer of Confession**

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our God of Grace, let us make our confession, beginning with a time short time of silence...

Jesus, wounded healer, we come to you  
as wounded and wounding people.

We have trodden on tenderness, trust has been broken,  
expectations dashed, hopes crushed.

Give us the courage to know our own pain

and the pain we have caused,  
and wisdom to take time for your healing.  
Merciful God, mend us, bend us to new knowing,  
bathe us in the balm of your care.  
Lend us insight to see the hurt we deal,  
and fearlessness to name injustice we see dealt.  
We ask this for ourselves and  
for all your vulnerable creation  
Through the power and love of Christ,  
in whose name we live and breathe and have our being.  
**Amen.**

**Words of Assurance - Taize chant** (sung twice)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
You alone O God are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Peace:**  
May the peace of Christ be always with you  
**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

**Moment for the young at heart: Phil**

**Bible Reading: Marie**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Song of Songs is one of only two biblical books, along with Esther, where there is no mention of God. The poems are spoken by a man, a woman, and a chorus that periodically comments on what is happening between the two lovers. Unlike most books in the bible, the woman's voice is clearly heard; in the intimacy and anticipation of love, her voice rings out.

### **Song of Songs 2:8-13 (NRSV)**

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

<sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.

<sup>10</sup> My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away,

<sup>11</sup> for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.

<sup>12</sup> The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

<sup>13</sup> The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.

### **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (NRSV)**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Chris W**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**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 in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

**Communion Hymn: Come to the banquet**

1. Come to the banquet there's a place for you

Though you maybe have no money,  
though you maybe feel unworthy  
in your strength or in your weakness  
you are welcome, come.

2.Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
See, you are an honoured guest,  
from constant serving you may rest  
so sit you down, be fed & blessed for  
you are welcome, come.

3.Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Here is one who runs to meet you,  
loving arms stretched out to greet you,  
do not let your fear defeat you,  
you are welcome, come

4.Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Willing hands have made this bread ,  
with salt and yeast and labour shared,  
let all the hungry ones be fed;  
it's time for feasting, come.

5.Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Abundant wine, enough for all,  
our generous loving host has called,  
the cup of blessing now is poured,  
for sweet communion, come.

Come to the banquet there's a place for you.

### **Communion:**

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus.  
It is to be made ready for those who love him  
and those who want to love him more.  
So, come, you who are hungry for God's love.  
Come, you who are yearning the Christ's presence.  
Come, you who want community;  
know that you are welcome here.

Why have we gathered here?

**We come because we have been called to live out a story.**

What story shall we live?

**The story of saving love.**

Where did this story begin?

**It was whispered before time began.**

**It was sung in the melody of Creation.**

Whose story is this?

**This story is God's alone to tell.**

**It hums in the rivers and the trees.**

**It whispers in the skies and the seas.**

**It calls to the people of all places.**

**It speaks in our hearts, in our lives.**

Why then should we speak of this story?

**This story calls our name in Creation.**

**This story claims our lives through the Cross.**

**This story shaped our future through the Spirit.**

**We are its telling in this time and this place.**

So, tell me the story of this night and of this table.

**The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed took bread,  
and when he had given thanks, he broke it (bread is broken).**

Tell me what he said and did.

**'This is my body which is broken for you.**

**Do this to make me real to you.**

Tell me what he said and did next (lift cup)

**In the same way, he took the cup and said**

**'This is a new covenant in my love.**

**Drink it to make me real to you.**

**This is our common story,  
our deep memory, our true destiny.**

So, let it also be our story-telling, our testimony.

Let's celebrate the way that grace has shaped our lives.



I invite you to say aloud what you are thankful for...

(we share what we are thankful for)

Hear the storytelling of all ages singing with us: (sung response TIS 761)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

What is our prayer on this day?  
(everyone holds their hands in blessing)

**Pour out your Holy spirit on us,  
so that this everyday meal becomes an eternal feast.  
So that our eating and drinking today  
unites us with Christ making us one body.  
So we know that you live in us and that we live in you.  
So that we live in your world knowing it is indeed yours.  
Living God, this is our prayer  
Amen**

#### Distribution

Let us receive this holy sacrament  
of the body and blood of Christ,  
and feed on him in our hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

(we eat and drink together)

#### Concluding prayer

In gratitude, in deep gratitude  
for this moment, this meal, these people,  
we give ourselves to you.  
Take us out to live as changed people  
because we have shared the Living Bread  
and cannot remain the same.  
**May we live to your glory,  
bringing your love and peace to your world.  
Amen.**

## **Community News:**

### **Offering Prayer:**

Giver of all good things,  
let your grace flow through us;  
a generous stream,  
unstoppable, refreshing, abundant.  
We release these gifts into your river of love,  
flowing out to all the world.

**Amen.**

### **Song: I walk by Faith**

I walk by faith,  
each step by faith,  
to live by faith,  
I put my trust in You. *(repeat)*

Every step I take,  
is a step of faith,  
no weapon formed against me  
shall prosper.  
And every prayer I make,  
is a prayer of faith.  
And if my God is for me,  
then who can stand against me?

### ***Benediction & Blessing:***

Go in faith, for there is God,  
riding in the light on the water,  
singing in the songs of the birds,  
sitting in the midst of the parties of life.  
Go in faith to play in creation  
and to drink deeply of the gracious cup of life

And the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**3-fold-Amen**

## Pastoral Prayers: **Christo**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Handwashing by Tomas Castano*

*Call to worship: The Presbyterian Church of Canada, "Making Connections: Staying rooted in an uprooted world".*

*Opening Prayer – adapted Uniting in Worship 2*

*Invitation to prayer of confession: adapted Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.*

*Prayer of confession ~ adapted Julie Perrin: A prayer, a plea, a bird*

*Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Working Preacher*

*Offering prayer: Carol Penner*

*Benediction: adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon – 'Liturgies of the journey of life'*