

SUMMERLAND & WESTBANK UNITED CHURCH
celebrating faith
seeking justice and
serving others in a loving community

A Joint Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches
Judith Ritcey - Presiding
Sunday, June 27th - 10 a.m.



PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey – Summerland United
Words of Welcome: Joan Gasior – Summerland United
Scripture Reading: Kathy Post – Westbank United

GATHERING TIME
INTRODUCTION & EXPLANATION
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

9:45AM
Judith Ritcey
Judith Ritcey

“I would like to begin by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. While we meet today on a virtual platform, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the lands, which we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. Most of us this morning, live on the traditional unceded territory of the Syilx First Nations people. May all of us continue to work together in a spirit of love and reconciliation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BELL RINGING
WORDS OF WELCOME

Joan Gasior, Summerland United

A warm welcome to our friends from Westbank, and Summerland United Churches who are with us today and to all those joining us from other locations. If there are any visitors today from other congregations or other places, we welcome you and thank you for joining us this morning. If you are comfortable, please unmute yourself and tell us where or what congregation you are from. Please remember to re-mute yourself.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION

Friends, we gather apart but together. I invite you now to switch to gallery view or scroll through your screen to witness the children of God gathered with us today.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

Judith Ritcey

Holy One, we now bring fire to our candle wicks making them glow with light,
May we also bring the fire of love to this time of prayer and worship.
May these candles send forth dancing rays like sunrise on the most glorious morning,
May these rays of light encircle us and those we love.
And may we all be reminded that you are walking beside us always
Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 12 – Come Touch Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP	Judith Ritcey
------------------------	---------------

As we gather here today, may the peace of Christ be with us.

As we come together virtually, may God’s peace rest on us as we listen to the message, sing songs of praise and give thanks.

May our time together ignite in us a desire to go out and share the peace and love of Christ with others.

Let us worship God, singing and praising God's wonderful love for all.

OPENING PRAYER

Judith Ritcey

Loving God, you live in us through the Spirit. We feel the holy breeze on our hearts, as surely as the trees feel the gentle wind on their leaves.

Thank you for always being with us, for giving us the courage and strength to let the Spirit into our lives, to let it fill our spiritual sails and carry us forward, so that we may be winds of change in a becalmed world.

Through your love, O God, this is possible. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 600 – When I Needed A Neighbour

SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 5: 21-43 The Inclusive Bible – Kathy Post, Westbank United

²¹When Jesus had crossed again to the other shore in the boat, a large crowd gathered, and he stayed by the lakeside.

²²Then one of the synagogue officials – Jairus by name, came up and seeing Jesus, fell down

²³and pleaded earnestly saying “My little daughter is desperately sick. Come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life” ²⁴Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed, pressing from all sides.

²⁵Now there was a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years; ²⁶after long and painful treatment from various doctors she had spent all she had without getting better – in fact, she was getting worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. ²⁸“If I can touch even the hem: she had told herself, “I will be well again.” ²⁹Immediately the hemorrhaging stopped and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

³⁰Immediately aware that healing power had gone out from him, Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹The disciples said, “you see how the crowd is pressing you and yet you say, “Who touched me?”

³²But Jesus continued to look around to see who had done it. ³³Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at Jesus' feet and told him the whole truth.

³⁴“My daughter” Jesus said, “your faith has saved you, go in peace and be free of your affliction.”

³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why put the Teacher to any further trouble?”

³⁶But Jesus overheard the remark and said to the official: “Don’t be afraid. Just believe.”

³⁷Jesus allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and James’ brother John.

³⁸They came to the official’s house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. ³⁹Jesus went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep”. ⁴⁰At this, they began to ridicule him, and he told everyone to leave.

Jesus took the child’s mother and father and his own companions, and entered the room where the child lay. ⁴¹Taking her hand, he said to her, “Talitha, koun!” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴² Immediately the girl, who was twelve years old, got up and began to walk about.

At this they were overcome with astonishment. ⁴³Jesus gave the family strict orders not to let anyone know about it and told them to give the little girl something to eat.

REFLECTION

Judith Ritcey

SONG FOR MEDITATION

The Hem of His Garment – Rhonda Michelle

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Paul James

THE LORD’S PRAYER - Traditional

Judith Ritcey

OFFERING

Judith Ritcey

Giving back or paying forward a portion of what comes to us from our Divine Provider is what fills the buckets with the time, resources, and energy needed for loving mission and service. Thank you for continuing your support to our churches.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In Unison

Take what we offer this morning, O God: Take our caring for our neighbours from a distance; take our phone calls, texts and social media greetings with our families; take our action of staying home and physical distancing; take all we offer this morning in word, in action and in donation, blessing us and our giving in Jesus’ name.

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 144 – Like A Healing Stream

BLESSING

Judith Ritcey

CHAT ROOMS



Where Food and Community Grow

Photo: Melanie Gordon Photography



Produce and community building flourish at Fred Victor.

Credit: Melanie Gordon Photography

“These gardens represent our vision for healthy and thriving communities”

Published On: May 25, 2021

Over the last year, the need for food has skyrocketed. Since the pandemic began, Fred Victor, a charity based in Toronto, Ontario, has served over 180,000 free and low-cost meals to people in need—a 40 percent increase over previous years.

Growing food security issues are just one of the reasons why Fred Victor’s community gardens are so necessary right now.

In addition to providing vital food services, shelter, counselling, and job training to support people living in poverty and experiencing homelessness, Fred Victor runs over 240 gardens

where local community members garden together. It is an activity they can still enjoy amid lockdown restrictions.

“The pandemic has pushed more people into poverty. More people are experiencing food insecurity and hunger. That is why we see these gardens as more than just plots of land with plants growing in them. For every harvest that makes its way onto plates and into bellies, and for every resident who feels empowered by their surroundings, these gardens represent our vision for healthy and thriving communities,” says Keith Hambly, Fred Victor’s CEO.

Today, over 200 families, many of whom live in poverty, grow their own nutritious food through these gardens. But the food itself isn’t the only benefit of the gardening program. At Fred Victor, gardening isn’t just about growing food—it’s about growing community, too.

“What we grow reflects our community’s vibrant cultural diversity. In our gardens, kiwi and amaranth grow alongside strawberries, carrots, and garlic, which grow alongside Indigenous healing and ceremonial plants such as tobacco and sage,” says Mark Woodnutt, Fred Victor’s Senior Manager, Community Food Centre.

Gardening and nutritional education, healthy food choices, and strong relationships are cornerstones of the gardening initiative. And there are plans to expand. “We’re looking to expand the program over the next year, turning plots at one of our locations into a micro-farm that will supply fresh ingredients to the meals served out of our community hub,” Woodnutt explains.

Your gifts through [Mission & Service](#) not only help feed families but also support building healthy communities through organizations like Fred Victor. Thank you for helping your neighbours across our country flourish.