

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, July 11th, 2021 - 10 a.m.



Ephesians 1: 3-14 & 18
Discovering Our Identity in Christ

PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey – Summerland United
Words of Welcome: Joan Gasior – Summerland United
Scripture Reading: Ken Bridges – 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 – *The Gathering* – pg. 38

Judith Ritcey

We follow God’s light into the calm. Christ is the light of day, the bright and comforting twinkling night light, the infinite and lovely flame of serenity. God is with us always. We thank you God.

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 6 – Holy Spirit, Come Into Our Lives

CALL TO WORSHIP	Judith Ritcey
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May grace wash over you as your worship

May peace be experienced in all we sing, pray and reflect on.

May joy fill you so that you are enlightened by God’s delight

May love radiate from every cell, conveying the amazing truth of God’s goodness

In hope and gratitude, let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER - The Gathering, pg. 43

Judith Ritcey

O Gentle Saviour, we pray today to embrace the gift of God's grace. For we know in our hearts that God's grace is our life force. God's grace has many qualities, and one of those qualities is humility. Jesus, stand among us in our hometown. Do not pass through our midst and go on your way. Let your truth and grace dissolve our need for entitlement, and let humility catch its breath among us. Amen

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 157 – I Am a Child of God

SCRIPTURE READING – Ephesians 1: 3-14 & 18 The Inclusive Bible and The Message
Ken Bridges, Westbank United

Ephesians 1:3-14 & 18 – Paul's letter to the Ephesians
The Inclusive Bible & The Message

³Praise be the Maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! ⁴Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; ⁵God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children – such was God's pleasure and will, ⁶that everyone might praise the glory of God's grace which was freely bestowed on us in God's beloved, Jesus Christ.

⁷It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favor ⁸given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. ⁹It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

¹¹In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God, and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel, we were predestined ¹²to praise the glory of the Most-High by being the first to hope in Christ. ¹³In Christ you too were chosen.

¹⁴It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

¹⁸I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope this call holds for you and the promised glories that God's holy ones will inherit.

REFLECTION

Judith Ritcey

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 161 – I Have Called You By Your Name

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Paul James

THE LORD’S PRAYER - Traditional

In Unison

OFFERING

Judith Ritcey

Let us take the time to give thanks to God for life, faith and community. Thank you for your continued support to our churches during these pandemic times. Thanks to your generous financial support we have been able to continue the work of the church. Your gifts are appreciated.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In Unison

God our Creator, giver of all good and perfect gifts, we bring our praise for who you are, the one who is and was and is to come. You continue the work of creating, of giving and forgiving, and we worship you for it all, embracing your grace and love. Help us in our journey to live the mystery of being born of water and spirit. Be patient with us as we learn to embrace your grace and extend it to others. We offer up to you all we are, all we have, and all we are becoming, in the name of Christ, who gave it all for us. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 424 – May the God of Hope Go with Us

BLESSING

Judith Ritcey

Go from this place today filled with God’s abundant love. Go from this place today filled with God’s love in your heart. Go now from this place and share this abundance and love with others. Go now from this place and know that God is grateful for each and every one of you. God from this place. Go with peace. Go with grace. Amen

CHAT ROOMS