

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

Welcome to our Sunday Service - COMMUNION SUNDAY
Rev. David Sparks
Sunday, January 9th, 2022



TEAMWORK MAKES SUNDAY WORSHIP HAPPEN

Words of Welcome: John Bubb

Scripture Reading: Olive Hunter

PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey

Office: 250-494-1514 – Open Wed & Thurs. – 10:00 – 2:00

Pastoral Care: Rev. Paul James

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INTRODUCTION & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

David Sparks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Judi Ritcey

WORDS OF WELCOME – VIEW THOSE PRESENT

John Bubb

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

David Sparks

The Light that was lit the very first Christmas is with us,

Let us rejoice in that light. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 30 – Rise Up, Rise Up,

Come from the demands of everyday life, to experience peace and challenge.

We will experience peace as we worship the Holy One, and we will be challenged.

OPENING PRAYER

Wonderful, is your blessing of family, O God.

We rejoice in the joy we find among those we love.

Wonderful, is your blessing of our daily activity, O God.

We rejoice in the achievement, friendship, and creativity of our day.

Wonderful, is your blessing of our learning, O God.

We rejoice that there is still so much for us to find out and put into practice.

Wonderful is your blessing of faith, O God;

We rejoice that with The Word you inspire us, and send us out to empower the oppressed, and to listen with the downhearted.

Wonderful Love is your mark, O God,

We thank you for its fullest expression in Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 79 – Arise Your Light is Come

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We gather to welcome the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

Like the crowds on Jordan's bank, we come humbly, for we have much to Confess.

We gather expectantly for we are ready to hear the prophetic Word.

God calls us to listen carefully, plan enthusiastically, and to respond practically.

We gather to make the new start that baptism symbolizes;

With that Jordan crowd we confess our fear of change, but affirm our willingness to turn our lifestyle around.

We gather to witness the awesome power of the Holy Spirit.

We will be inspired to renew our relationships, and work in community to enliven our church and our neighbourhood.

.....time of reflection.....

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Are you ready to change your ways; to forgive freely, to give of yourself with generosity, to listen carefully, to meet needs promptly, to respond faithfully, to act justly.

We are ready!

God's pardon and peace are yours.

Thanks be to God!

READINGS

Isaiah 43: 1-7 and Luke 3: 15,16,21,22 – Olive Hunter

Restoration and Protection Promised

¹But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom, and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

2nd Reading:

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The Baptism of Jesus

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

SERMON

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 510 – We Have This Ministry

OFFERING PRAYER

We offer you our gifts of money, O God,
you receive them and bless them.

We offer you our talents and skills, O God,
you accept them and challenge us to use them.

We offer you the time that is ours, Loving God
you will use our time compassionately.

We offer bread and wine,
and joyfully remember Jesus.

Your offering has been accepted.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Amen

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 194 – Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

HOLY COMMUNION THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Peace be with you!

And love to one another.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Living God, your presence has been with your people from the first;

You chose Moses as your leader and spoke through the prophets.

Your loyalty was known in Ruth, and your love expressed by the prophet Hosea

When all seemed lost, you sent an angel to Mary, and Jesus your Anointed One was born in Bethlehem.

Jesus proclaimed the nature of your Realm, in word and deed;

Jesus accepted the hated and rejected,

Jesus gave hope to the despairing,

Jesus gave dignity to women and children,

PRAYERS FOR TODAY'S NEEDS

The life of Jesus, which would not tolerate evil led him to a cross; the broken bread, sign of his body broken for us, the wine poured out, sign of the new covenant in his blood.

Jesus died, but you, O God raised him to new life, and his influence Jesus created a disciple family and gave them a mission.

Be with our church in its influence, local, national and global, through the Mission and Service Fund.

is still at work, bringing freedom and justice, peace and reconciliation.

Thanks be to God,

All: Amen

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 959 – The Lord's Prayer

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

David

When you hear the words "Jesus the bread of life," respond, "Amen."

Take and eat a piece of bread.

When you hear the words, "Jesus the true vine, respond, "Amen."

And drink the juice.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Loving God, we give you thanks for what you have given and promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth, you have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you; and we ask that our daily living may be a part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 506 – Take My Life and Let It Be

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 179 – Sisters Let Us Walk Together

YOU GIVE SKILLS FOR LIFE – KATHLEEN’S STORY

“I learned to pray, to reflect, and to experience God in nature.”



Credit: Kathleen White

Camp is more than a holiday. It gives young people skills that last a lifetime. Kathleen is a special education teacher, a busy mom of three children under the age of five, and a youth and young adults coordinator at her church. She says her early summer church camp experience continues to impact her approach to each of these important roles.

“Camp taught me that children are precious and we’re there to help them and guide them. Vespers taught me to take a deep breath in times of stress. Chaplains showed me how to bring out the best in children and draw out their talents. All those things I learned from camp I now apply to my everyday world, including motherhood,” says Kathleen.

Kathleen grew up in very formal churches where she felt she had to be perfect, all the time. Outdoors, in an informal setting, her faith blossomed.

“I never felt really connected to God before going to camp. It opened up my perspective of what church is. My relationship with God expanded. I learned to pray, to reflect, and to experience God in nature.”

Those early lessons continue to ground Kathleen in trying moments.

“Today, because I learned to connect with God in nature, I can take time to reflect and I can show God’s love. When I’m too stressed, I can take a quick look at a bird or tree and remember that God is with me when a student is expressing their frustration. Staying calm and showing God’s love is huge. It goes a long way. I

remind my own children that God is with them, even in the hardest times too,” she says.

Before COVID, approximately 20,000 children attended a United Church camp every year. During the pandemic, many camps provided virtual support to young people during lockdown.

“I just want to say a huge thank you to Mission & Service donors for their support of camps,” says Kathleen. “I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for their support. Thank you.”