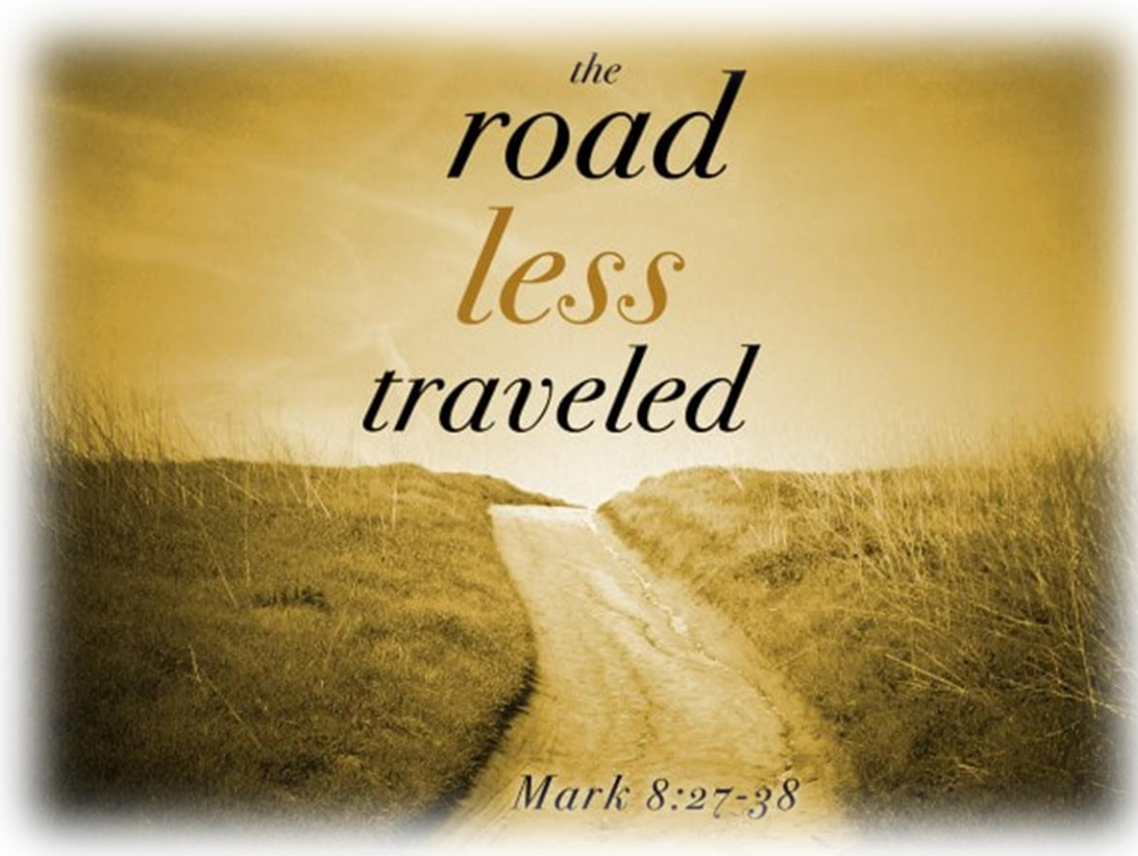


SUMMERLAND UNITED CHURCH
Judith Ritcey - Presiding
Sunday, September 12, 2021



Words of Welcome: Kathryn McLaughlin
Scripture Reading: Dixie Rosher
PowerPoint: Judi Ritcey

GATHERING TIME

10:00 p.m.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Judith Ritcey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kathryn McLaughlin

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

Judith Ritcey

In a world that can be chaotic and frightening, we light a candle of hope.

In a world where the way is uncertain, may this light of Christ show us the way.

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 395 – Come In, Come In and Sit Down

CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsorial

To be a church family is a blessing.

To encourage and care for one another is a joy.

To work together for the common good of all people and all creation is our calling.

Come, let us worship as the body of Christ.

**We come as followers of the Way of Jesus, as those inspired by the Spirit of God,
to worship, sing, and pray.**

OPENING PRAYER

Draw close, God, until we can hear your call.

Show us that you are near and that you notice us.

Open our hearts so we experience all creation praising you.

Open our spirits till we recognize you in Jesus, caring, sharing, and blessing.

Remind us, as we settle into this time of prayer, that it is we who need to draw close to you because you are already close to us. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 161 – I Have Called You By Your Name

WORDS OF ILLUMINATION

Open our spirits and our hearts this day, brother Jesus. Enable us to receive with new understanding today's scripture message, that your words of life may draw us deeper in love with you, with ourselves, and with one another. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Dixie Rosher

Mark 8:27-38 - Good News Translation (GNT)

Who Do People Say I Am

27 Then Jesus and his disciples went away to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

28 “Some say that you are John the Baptizer,” they answered; “others say that you are Elijah, while others say that you are one of the prophets.”

29 “And you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

30 Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Promised One must suffer much; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and religious scholars. He will be put to death, and rise again three days later.” 32 He made this very clear to them.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. 33 At this Jesus turned around, looked at his disciples, and reprimanded Peter. “Get out of my sight you Satan,” he said. “You are judging by human standards rather than by Gods.

34 Then Jesus called the crowd and his disciples to him. “If any of you want to come with me,” he told them, You must deny your very self, carry your cross, and follow me. 35 For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will save it.

36 What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose yourself in the process?

37 What can you offer in exchange for your soul? 38 Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory.”

**THESE WORDS COME FROM THE SCRIPTURES OF OUR TRADITIONS
MAY WE FIND WISDOM FOR OUR DAILY LIVING. AMEN**

REFLECTION

Judith Ritcey

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 561 – Take Up Your Cross

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Judith Ritcey

Dear God, we live in a world that does not listen for the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we are very nearsighted. We live in a world that is troubled.

A world of terrorism, sexism, and racism, a world of fear, scarcity and violence, a world of abuse, addiction and abandonment. The Holy Spirit tells us to love others as you love us.

We pray for the courage to show others we love them.

The Holy Spirit tells us that the world will hate us.

We pray for the integrity to defy the world's values.

The Holy Spirit tell us to give unselfishly.

We pray for the strength to deny ourselves for the good of others.

The Holy Spirit is God's presence in the world.

May we ring God's peace and comfort to those who are sick or in hospital, to those who are mourning loss, to those who are lonely or depressed, to those we name aloud or in our hearts. A TIME OF SILENCE.

May others know we are disciples of Jesus by our love of neighbour.

May we offer God's love, compassion, and grace to all.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us to live Christ's commandment.

May we always acknowledge that we are a part of the family.

May it be so. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER - VU 959

David Haas, 1985 – A Paraphrase

Creator, sustainer, hallowed be Your name,

Your kin'dom come, your will be done on earth with all people.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us.

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

For the love and the power of the spirit are yours, now and forever. Amen

OFFERING

Judith Ritcey

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In Unison

Gracious God, we know that our gifts make a difference to each other and to others in your world. We give to support the ministry of this congregation. We give to support your ministry of love in the world. We give, that others might live with hope. Receive and bless our gifts, and with them, the offerings of our hearts.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 424 – May the God of Hope Go With Us

BLESSING

Judith Ritcey

As Jesus called the children to come to him and the disciples to follow him, we too have a calling, a calling to live out the word, to be the love and do the work of Christ's church. May you feel rooted by your faith in God, inspired by the stories of Jesus, and lifted by the Guiding Spirit along your way. Amen.

No Longer Asking “Where Will I Eat?” An Update from Our Place Society

“We have never stopped providing three meals a day.”



Staff at Our Place serve food outside at a special barbecue for guests.

Credit: Our Place Society

When the pandemic began to ramp up last year, Grant McKenzie, the Communications Director at Our Place Society—a Mission & Service partner—told us one of the questions street-involved guests often asked is “Where will I eat?”

No one asks that question at Our Place anymore.

“The reason for that is simple. We have never stopped providing three meals a day. And as this pandemic continues, we endeavour to make more food options available. Due to social distancing, our kitchen staff need to think more creatively as they plan one-bowl meals that can be safely handed out at our front gates. We are also busy providing water, tea, coffee, and milk,” says McKenzie.

That doesn’t mean there is no stress. The fentanyl crisis, overdoses, magnified social isolation, and mounting stress and anxiety as the pandemic continues take a heavy toll. Still, guests have

reassurance that Our Place will continue to offer three square meals a day, whether indoors or out.

“In this strange and difficult time, my heart breaks with sorrow at the vulnerable people struggling to survive with yet another obstacle in their path, but my heart also swells with pride at the people who are stepping up to help,” he says.

Reassurance can be hard to come by in uncertain times. Your gifts through Mission & Service continue to provide steady support during the long COVID-19 crisis. Thank you.