



Welcome  
to  
Church







WELCOME  
&  
ANNOUNCEMENTS



# Sanctus #315

Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song  
shall rise to thee; holy, holy,  
holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons,  
blessed Trinity! ~



# **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**





# \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: When we are reluctant to dip  
our toes into faith's river,

**All: Jesus comes, to teach us  
how to swim.**

One: When we are hesitant to cup  
our hands to drink from the  
fountain of grace,

**All: Jesus comes, to reach in  
and splash our faces with God's  
joy.**

One: When we are unwilling to be  
the pipeline of hope,

**All: Jesus comes, to turn on the  
faucets God has installed in our  
hearts.**

One: Come, let us worship.



# \*OPENING PRAYER:

One: When we clasp the past tight to our fading memories, you come, Glory of creation: to strip us bare of all pride and pretense, with your future; to slip the latch on the fears and worries that keep us bound from following you; to stand with us when death and sin try to bully us.

**All: And we cry, “Glory!”**

One: When our faith flickers in the shadows of chaos, you come, Servant of all to be the grace-crier through the streets of our hearts; to teach eager students the songs of peace and hope; to open eyes heavy-lidded by indifference.

**All: And we cry, “Glory!”**

One: When we are dubious about being disciples, you come, Baptism's Spirit: to journey with peace-walkers through the world's violent streets; to strengthen us when we are bent by doubt; to anoint us with rivers of grace, hope, and reconciliation.

**All: And we cry, “Glory!” We  
pray as we have been taught,  
(the prayer that Jesus taught).**





**OPENING HYMN: VU#678**

**“For the Healing of the Nations”**

For the healing of the nations,  
God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.

To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and  
goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that, by our response and service,  
earth its destiny may find.~



# PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**All: You would have all people hear of your grace, servant God, but we hinder your efforts by hoarding the word for ourselves. You would have hope flow through our neighbourhoods, but we thwart your plans by damming up hope in our hearts.**

**You would have us skip into  
your realm, but we frustrate your  
future by clinging so tightly to  
those grudges we have carried  
for so long. Have mercy on us,  
Shaker of our wildernesses, and  
unlock the shuttered doors of  
our hearts. Remind us that at  
our baptism you touch us with  
the waters of life, promise to be**

**with us always, and call us your  
beloved, even as you sang your  
joy to Jesus the Christ, at the  
waters of the Jordan.**

*(Silence is kept)*



# **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

One: You know the good news God has proclaimed to you: we are called to let go of the past, and to walk, hand in hand with the Spirit, into the reign of God.

**All: God forgives us, accepts us,  
and sends us forth to do good,  
and to testify about the One who  
baptizes us in the water and the  
Spirit. Thanks be to God. Amen.**





**HYMN: VU#341**  
**“Fairest Lord Jesus”**

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down:  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,  
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the  
woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the troubled heart to sing.



All fairest beauty heavenly and  
earthly,  
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;  
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer  
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.~



# CHILDREN'S TIME





**SCRIPTURE:**

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

**Betty Hardyman**

The Servant, a Light to the Nations  
Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him; he will  
bring forth justice to the nations. He  
will not cry or lift up his voice, or make  
it heard in the street; a bruised reed  
he will not break, and a dimly burning  
wick he will not quench; he will  
faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in

righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass,

and new things I now declare; before  
they spring forth, I tell you of them.

**SCRIPTURE:**  
**Acts 10:34-43**

**Betty Hardyman**

# Gentiles Hear the Good News

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in

Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the

third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who

believes in him receives forgiveness of  
sins through his name.”

**SCRIPTURE:**  
**Matthew 3:13-17**

**Betty Hardyman**

# The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been

baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



# SERMON







**HYMN: VU#229**

**“God of the Sparrow”**

God of the sparrow God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say *Awe*

How does the creature say *Praise*

God of the earthquake God of the  
storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home~



**\*OFFERING: #541**

***Praise God from whom all  
blessings flow;***

***praise God, all creatures high  
and low;***

***give thanks to God in love made  
known:***

***Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***



# **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**By your grace, God of the waters, we can open our eyes to see those in need around us. By your abundance in our lives, what we offer can bring hope and healing to more people than we can ever imagine. By your blessing, others are invited to**

**the waters of life. In Jesus' name  
we pray, Amen.**



# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

One: Your voice thunders in the night,  
and sings love songs in the morning.

**All: Your voice tumbles raging rapids,  
and ripples pools of peace.**

One: Your voice snaps trees in two,  
and can mend broken hearts with a  
sigh.

**All: We give glory to your name, God  
of our lives.**

One: Guided by grace, you became the champion of justice.

**All: Beloved of the sightless, you release those we would shackle.**

One: Broken for our sake, you shape our souls into silhouettes hanging in the hall of servants.

**All: We give glory to your grace, child of the waters.**

One: You cup your hands around our flickering faith, breathing us to new life.

**All: You call us to work for justice,  
teaching us intentional acts of  
service.**

One: You immerse us in courage,  
daring us to speak words of hope.

**All: We give glory to your love, Spirit  
of wonder.**

One: We give you the glory now and  
always. Amen.





**CLOSING HYMN: VU#606**

**“In Christ There Is No East or West”**

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great family of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and  
west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christ-like souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.~



# \*BLESSING:

One: Baptized to begin lives of faith,

**All: we would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst, in our world.**

One: Baptized to serve,

**All: we would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.**

One: Baptized to speak,

**All: we would heal, and not hurt;  
we would bless, and not curse.**

One: Baptized to do what is right,

**All: we would not play  
favourites, but treat each as  
your Beloved**



**Choral Response:**  
**“Go Now In Peace”**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of  
ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong  
and true.

Know God will guide you in all you  
do.

Go now in love, and show you  
believe.

Reach out to others so all the world  
can see.

God will be there watching from  
above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in  
love.

Amen.....Amen.....Amen



A white ceramic coffee cup filled with coffee, sitting on a matching white saucer. A thick plume of white steam rises from the cup, filling the left side of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color.

**Everyone is  
invited and  
encouraged to join  
us for  
refreshments  
following worship!**

**Please remember  
to return your  
nametag.**