



Hope Lutheran Church Hybrid Worship Service ***May 15, 2022 — Easter 5***

We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and worship on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Hay ch'qa.

Welcome & Announcements

Thanksgiving at the Font

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn #376 Thine is the Glory

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou over death has won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where they body lay.**

(Refrain)

**Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won!**

**Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting!**

(Refrain)

**No more we doubt thee glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

(Refrain)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

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Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading – Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He

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will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel – John 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

John 13:31-35

On Friday morning as I arrived at the church, something was different. There was a beach umbrella set up directly beneath my office window. I parked and walked up to the door and said, “Good morning, are you able to stay out of the rain?” A man in his 30s was helping someone else. A woman, partially covered by a hoodie, maybe of the same age was having a hard time standing. “We are just getting ready to leave,” he announced. I told him not to worry, to take their time and it’s okay. She said, ***“I used to go to NA (Narcotics Anonymous) here, that’s why we came here — because I feel safe here.”*** As they slowly got up, I hurried to the fridge. All I could find was ginger ale. I gave them each a bottle with an apology that I had nothing else, and was thanked profusely as he assisted the woman down the steps and on their way. They were helpless. I felt helpless.



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Jesus had brief conversations with people. He helped in ways he could. Because of the experience Christ's love, Christians have always tried extend love to others. What does "loving as we have been loved" mean today? What does it mean for the homeless on the church steps?

Little children...

"Love one another as I have loved you." I bet the disciples could think of many examples. Can you?

They were a mixed group when he called them: blue collar and white collar; older and younger; siblings and friends or strangers. A few were deep thinkers, others quick doers. Peter was impulsive. Thomas was wary. Women followed closely and Mary Magdalene was the first preacher of the resurrection. Each had problems, issues, secrets and fears. Like us.

At this point in the story, Jesus didn't have much teaching time left so this new commandment is critical. What was the most important thing to say right then? Jesus had to decide. Would he pressure listeners to believe the right way? Try make sure the group was true to its creed? Wait a minute, it took hundreds of years before we even had a creed to fight about. Would telling them to repent be the priority? As his final hours slipped away, the critical issue was, as he said, *"Love one another the way I loved you."*

Love one another...

Eventually he would not be visible yet his presence would be needed, so he disclosed that his followers would represent him. *"Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."* Does that still hold today? Do people notice the presence of Jesus in church communities because of love? There are so many First Nation stories of church-related manipulation, exclusion, control, abuse, hate and deception. How are we following the leader? It looks like we need a change of heart.

When we represent Christ, we are just ourselves. No lapel pins or uniforms, no badges or ID cards. No clergy collar or stoles. The identifier is: love for one another. Nothing else counts.

If mutual love identifies us, what should we be like? I think the disciples squirmed awkwardly when Jesus called out *"This is my commandment that you love one*

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another, as I have loved you.” That is how everyone will know you are mine... and that they are safe. That is his call and expectation.

The Gospel of John¹ tells a lot of stories about how he loved. Remember Nicodemus coming at night, a woman at the well, a lame man waiting 8 years, 5000 people needing lunch, a woman caught in adultery, a rejected blind man wanting to see things anew, even Lazarus who was as good as dead.

Peter also learned

A little later Peter learned in a new way about his love. The “church” was mostly filled with Jewish people who called Jesus their Messiah, or Christ. They rigorously followed traditions since Moses’ time like only eating certain *kosher* foods.

Peter’s vision in our first reading showed him that he needed to stop seeing life in terms of “clean and unclean”... of “us and them.” That was over. He became involved with family and friends of a Roman Centurion. They were very different in background and culture but were searching for meaning. Peter spoke of God’s grace in Christ and that made all the difference.

A little later Peter was criticized for associating with “them.” But when he told his story, they realized God was doing something new. God was removing the “us and them.” The world God loves is one people.

Everyone will know...

When Jesus loved people, he listened, befriended, formed community, welcomed, served, forgave, and accompanied...

Mother Teresa put it well: ***If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.*** It’s hard to love someone if we don’t know them. Where do we even begin?

I gave an elderly person a ride. While she was getting out of the car, I stood there feeling helpless, unsure how to offer assistance. So, I awkwardly said, “How can I help you.” She smiled and replied, “Let me take your hand and lean on you. That’s it.” We helped each other.

We don’t know where to begin when we haven’t asked or listened. Love is about relationship ... connection. It happens by little steps... CLWR helps us hear the

¹ John 3, 4, 5, 6,

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voice of refugees. Loaves and Fishes introduce us to the hungry. A neighbour says, “*Can you help me?*”

This takes time and work. Christ’s love brings safety and hope and doesn’t change. But to love like Christ takes courage as we reach out, are vulnerable, give, offer time, or have a little talk and are left feeling helpless. Like Jesus on the road, love flows toward whoever is nearby: at home, at work, at church.

Having such an uncommon love for each other and those we meet, means that we can trust that God is present and feel safe. The couple with the beach umbrella told me they felt safe under the window of a location dedicated to love. Like Jesus, let’s create safe spaces for new friends. Maybe then people will know that we belong to him too.

Amen

Hymn of the Day #377 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

(Refrain)

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, giving us glory; Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

(Refrain)

Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing in me.

(Refrain)

Weeping be gone; sorrow, be silent; death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us with wonder, adorn us in light.

(Refrain)

City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!

(Refrain)

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Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the renewal of life all around us, we pray for all believers, the world, and those in need. To the words “*Let us come to you in child-like wonder*” you are invited to respond “**Hear our prayer.**”

A moment of silence

Move within your church and make our baptism come alive in a renewed commitment to build community, worship together, share our faith, serve others, and work for justice and peace. Enable us to seek and find the creativity you have written into our DNA that we may find new approaches to old challenges, personally and socially. *Let us come to you in child-like wonder,*

Hear our prayer.

Let us celebrate and seek to preserve the diversity of life on earth. Inspire us to preserve and protect the habitats of endangered and threatened species. Turn our attention to the rising sun, the moon lighting the night, and the rhythms of tides and seasons that resonate deep within us, as we are one with this earth from which we came and to which we shall go. *Let us come to you in child-like wonder,*

Hear our prayer.

Continue to renew our energy for pushing our democratic nation into justice and shared wealth. Encourage us with the wisdom that democracy is a difficult way to run a country—until you consider the other options. Stand beside police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders as they handle crisis after crisis—and give them what they need to process the trauma they see and experience on behalf of others. *Let us come to you in child-like wonder,*

Hear our prayer.

Let us feel moved by support and strength in times of sickness and difficulty that is your presence beside us, walking alongside us, holding our hands. Let those who weep find release from stress and hope to carry on. Restore health and wholeness to those we name aloud or silently within our hearts...

Baby K; Dan A; Hillary A; Ron & Edna B; Kent C; Ron C; Virginie F; Anne G; Gary G; Hallowyn H; Donna K; Gloria L; Gail M; Carole & Clyde O; Eva R; Maureen R; Sharon & Charlie S; Janice V; Cathy W; Jack Z; Barbara & Al; Ingvar; Jordan; Kira; Noel; Quinn; Susan; Zak... and their families.

Let us come to you in child-like wonder,

Hear our prayer.

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Thank you for the power of hospitality and bless those who cheerfully greet, welcome, help, and serve others in their daily work and in daily life. Let us reach out to our neighbours, making slow and consistent inroads to building community creating connections in the place we call home. *Let us come to you in child-like wonder,*

Hear our prayer.

Create increasing connection with the *Anglican Church of Canada* and other churches of our area, as well as our own **Bishop Kathy**. We offer prayers for the churches of our synod, especially *Grace Lutheran* in Victoria; *Mount Olive* in Surrey; and for *prison ministries* and their chaplains. *Let us come to you in child-like wonder,*

Hear our prayer.

Let us bask in the image that, in Easter, comes with the tender and reciprocal marriage between divinity and humanity. May we feel a festive joy in this constant dance between lover and beloved, in the circle of love forever moving around and through us. *Let us come to you in child-like wonder,*

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, you are our peace. We pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine. We pray for the people of Ukraine – those who are forced to flee, those who are trapped and unable to flee, those who are in need of aid, those who have died. We pray for Ukrainian and Russian soldiers, that they may be moved to lay down their weapons. We pray for world leaders, that they would be led into your ways of peace and justice. We pray for our whole world who watches and worries. God have mercy! *Let us come to you in child-like wonder,*

Hear our prayer.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, who welcomes us into the bright light and power of Easter.

AMEN.

The Peace [*unmute*]

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,
or some other gesture of peace)*

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The Meal

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: ***Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.***

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: ***This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.***

Lord's Prayer Song

https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/CKt_sqflCs0VGqvSrWZi-A/

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Hallowed be your name, Hallelujah.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth

As in heaven, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give us today our daily bread, give us today our bread,

Give us our bread today, Hallelujah.

Forgive our sins as we forgive

Forgive our sins as we forgive those

Who sin against us, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Save us from the time of trial, save us from the trial.

Deliver us from evil, Hallelujah.

For the kingdom and the power are yours,

The kingdom and the power are yours,

The glory now and ever, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen.

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Communion

(those on Zoom will be communed first, and then those in the sanctuary)

(If you are with someone else, say these words as you offer communion...)

Bread: “Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you.”

Cup: “Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you.”

Communion Hymn #522 As We Gather at Your Table

**As we gather at your table as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s vict’ry known.**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: He Lives

**I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near
*(Refrain)***

**He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart**

In all the world around me I see His loving care

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**And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last (Refrain)**

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind (Refrain)**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Tell what God has done.
Thanks be to God!

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Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: (musician selecting hymns): *John Collett*

Reader: *Vibeke Sandberg*

Prayers: *Ray Schultz*

Zoom Hosts: *Gail; Curt S(Back up); Garth & Sue; Gerry O, John , Marlis & Jamie(Co-hosts); Sanctuary: Glenn(C1/PTZ); Steve M(C2).*

Zoom Greeters: *Bill & Caroline*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

Readings for Sunday, May 22 - Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29

