



Hope Lutheran Church Hybrid Worship Service

May 22, 2022 — Easter 6

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 #804 "Come Down, O Love Divine
Come down, O Love divine; seek out this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Oh, let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing --
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far out pass the pow'r of human telling;
no soul can guess Love's grace till it become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

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

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading – Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will

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be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel – John 14:23-29

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: John 14:23-29



Let's begin with something we do every Sunday.

“The peace of Christ is with you always!”

“And also with you!”

What is that all about? We call it the Peace, or Passing the Peace. It always takes place somewhere in our service, usually just before communion starts. I often introduce that moment by saying, *“Let's greet one another with words of peace...”*

What does that greeting offer? What do we receive? What is this peace that Jesus gives?

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Weaning

Like a mother weaning a child, Jesus was in the process of weaning the disciples from his physical presence to the practice of faith which they would need for the rest of their lives. He would be gone soon. He was teaching the presence of God, living the promises and practicing love. He said the Father would make a home with them, and the Spirit would be present... and he left his peace with them.

Jesus always spoke to them in the plural. He always talked about community. We will always be a precious child of God but there comes a time to be weaned in order to live with others. Life with others is the nature of the church.

Peace — unlike the world

Jesus gives peace, but not like the world around us. In his day some might have thought of the Roman Peace, or *Pax Romana*, as it was called. It lasted some 200 years and was the background to the life of Jesus. At the time the Roman Empire was relatively peaceful... but there was a hitch.

It was an enforced compliance...OR ELSE! It was not unlike the beginnings of the conflict in Ukraine: comply, OR ELSE! That is a strange way to establish peace. It's like a police officer dealing with an altercation and commanding, "*Quit fighting me! I will win!*" That was not the peace Jesus offered.

If peace is not forced compliance, what is it that we are left with? It is a gift. It is available, but be unrealized. On a stormy sea, Jesus called out, "*Peace! Be still!*" and there was calm. During resurrection appearances he first said, "*Peace be with you.*" St. Paul regularly began and ended his letters in the New Testament calling people to peace. On each occasion peace speaks to the presence of God. The promises of Christ are all about God with us — the wellspring of peace.

We all have our challenges with experiencing peace. For me, some days begin with smiles and the joy of a couple planning a marriage, or celebrating some event in life. Then a little while later I hear a tear-filled story of loss, or I find myself at the bedside of an ill or dying person... and I need to that peace of which Jesus speaks.

Peace — of Christ

Hope and Shepherd of the Valley, Comox, are communities that listen, care and help. We gather on Sundays to sort of "re-set" ourselves. During those worship times, peace begins to re-form us. Psalm 131 speaks of quieting the soul like a weaned child with her mother. We quiet our souls and pass the presence of God to each other in words and gestures of peace, like fresh breezes from an open window.

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Christ is with us... and we follow along remembering and sharing his love, trusting that presence with us, as the spirit speaks to us in community or through the compassion of another person. There is calm, there is quiet, there is peace.

We know that everything doesn't depend on us... but God has called us together as and we find our way with support. The peace Jesus left and gave us shows that God's home is among us, the Spirit is sent to us, and though we can't see him, Christ is here — and he finds us.

It is the peace of God present in community - given to God's people.

A great example of the peace that comes from community compassion is found in the L'Arche¹ communities in Canada and around the world. The secret of L'Arche is relationship, meeting people... heart to heart; listening to people with their pain, their joy, their hope, their history; listening to their hearts beat. That vision inspired by Jesus, involves:

- *Mutual care, respect, and compassion between people with and without intellectual disabilities.*
- *Sharing ordinary, daily life with all its joys and sorrows.*
- *Living, working, learning, and celebrating together in communities of belonging.*
- *Transforming our lives as we embrace our gifts and imperfections.*
- *Recognizing that we need each other and are better together.*
- *This is a model of inclusion, a way of **peace**, and a sign of hope for our world*

It sounds like the road we have been on for a long time. We draw on the compassionate presence of God among us. When this peace is received people thrive whatever their condition.

St. Paul called it “*the peace that passes understanding*”². He knew that peace is the Spirit moving through the heart. Christ joins and incarnates our love. In our words, songs and actions – Christ rises among us, and we trust the one already here.

The Peace of Christ is with you always!
Amen.

¹ <https://www.larche.ca/mission-and-vision>

² Philippians 4:7

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Hymn of the Day #631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!**

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the goodness in life and living, we pray for all believers, the world, and those in need. To the words "*Free us to be what we were meant to be*" you are invited to respond "**Your mercy is great.**"

A moment of silence

Remind us of the simplicity of our calling: that we love God and love our neighbours as ourselves. May we live through the complexities of living this out by remembering how butterflies navigate extraordinary distances and eagles return to their nests year after year to raise their young.

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

Your mercy is great.

Make water and sunshine, darkness and light, sustain the growth of food on this planet. Let us re-commit ourselves over and again to ensuring that the earth's abundance is shared so that all are fed. May we use and conserve the water that quenches our thirst and nourishes every cell of life.

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

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Your mercy is great.

Your tree of life pushes forth leaves of healing upon nations. Let each of us put aside our fear of differences in thinking and living, and erode from within the hatred that pushes nation against nation in war. Only by clinging to our common humanity can we move beyond genocide, civil wars, terrorism, and violence.

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

Your mercy is great.

Grant us the courage to be strong and well. Let us shirk off the stress and habits that keep us sick and suffering. Comfort us as we struggle with the challenges of living with the weaknesses we have in body and soul. Restore health and wholeness to those we name aloud or silently within our hearts...

Arlene K; 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; Dillon & Trinity; Ingvar; Jordan; Kari; Kira; Kon Tet Chin; Noel; Quinn; Susan; Zak... and their families.

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

Your mercy is great.

While giving thanks for those who lay down their lives in service to country and conscience, we pray for a world in which freedom and justice develop through people like us pursuing a greater vision, enabled by the power of example and non-violent resistance to what fails to serve the sanctity of life.

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

Your mercy is great.

Incite creative expressions of your love through our work with *Anglican Church of Canada* and other churches of our area and with our own *BC Synod* and **Bishop Kathy**. We offer prayers for the churches of our synod, especially *Grace Lutheran* in Dawson Creek and **Interim Pastor Marilyn Carroll**; and *Deo Lutheran* in Salmon Arm and **Pastor Erik Bjorgan**.

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

Your mercy is great.

Teach us to walk the earth in sunlight and in moonlight until we know deeply what it means to be alive and to find within us the kingdom of God preached by a simple Galilean who has come to be called Christ.

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

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Your mercy is great.

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!

Free us to be what we were meant to be,

Your mercy is great.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, celebrating the Alpha and Omega that is within and beyond us.

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)*

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.***

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

Our Father in heaven

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

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Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

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 #785 When Peace Like A River

**When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

*It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.**

Refrain

**He lives - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

Refrain

**Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

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 #763 My Life Flows On In Endless Song

**My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.**

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Refrain

***No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

**Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?**

Refrain

**What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.**

Refrain

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?**

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: *Shirley Forwell*

Prayers: *Peter Clark*

Zoom Hosts: *John (Spotlighter); Jamie(C1/PTZ); Marlis(C2).*

Zoom Greeters: *Bill & Caroline*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

Readings for Sunday, May 29 - Easter 7

Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

