



St. Laurence, Coquitlam

November 15, 2020 at 9:30 am

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering of the Community

All are warmly welcomed to our worship.

"To wait with openness and trust is an enormously radical attitude toward life. It is choosing to hope that something is happening for us that is far beyond our own imaginings. It is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life. It is living with the conviction that God molds us in love, holds us in tenderness, and moves us away from the sources of our fear."

Henri Nouwen

Call to Worship

In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
we come to be your people, O God.
Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
we come to be your people, O God.
Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
we come to be your people, O God.
Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
we come to be your people, O God.
May we truly become your people today. **Amen.**

from "All Saints Day (Year A)," posted on **Seasons Online**.
http://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/all-saints-day_cong-life_yr-a.pdf

Hymn *Take This Moment*

1. Take this moment, sign, and space;
Take my friends around;
Here among us make the place
Where your love is found.
2. Take the time to call my name,
Take the time to mend
Who I am and what I've been,
All I've failed to tend.
3. Take the tiredness of my days,
Take my past regret,
Letting your forgiveness touch
All I can't forget.
4. Take the little child in me,
Scared of growing old;
Help him/her here to find his/her worth
Made in Christ's own mold.
5. Take my talents, take my skills,
Take what's yet to be;
Let my life be yours, and yet,
Let it still be me.

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Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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Psalm 123 *Our Eyes are Fixed on the Lord*

Refrain:

***Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy,
pleading for his mercy.***

I gaze at the heavens,
searching for you, my God.
A slave watches his master's hand,
a servant girl, the hand of her mistress;
so our eyes rest on you, Lord,
awaiting your kindness. **Refrain**

Have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
We have swallowed enough scorn,
stomached enough sneers:
the scoffing of the complacent,
the mockery of the proud. **Refrain**

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Gospel Reading

Reader May God be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’ ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is our refuge and stronghold.
For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,
our schools and young people,
and all in any kind of need or distress:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

I invite you to offer your own prayers and petitions:

(A moment of silence)

Faithful God, we commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to your steadfast love, healing and protection.

Merciful One,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;

your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us;

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil,

or the kingdom, the pow'r

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. **Amen.**

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Hymn *A Touching Place*

1. Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
And Christ is the one who meets us here.

Refrain

To the lost Christ shows his face;

To the unloved he gives his embrace;

To those who cry in pain or disgrace,

Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.

2. Feel for the people we most avoid,
Strange or bereaved or never employed;
Feel for the women, and feel for the men
Who fear that their living is all in vain. **Refrain**

3. Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
Feel for the women whom men have defiled,
Feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
And feel for the weary who find no rest. **Refrain**

4. Feel for the lives by life confused,
Riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
Feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
Which longs to be pure but fears to begin. **Refrain**

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The Blessing

Presider May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah,
and of Jesus born of our sister Mary,
and of the Holy Spirit who broods over creation
as a mother over her children,
be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Love wholeheartedly.
Live as you were created.
Be God's people in our fragmented world. **Amen.**

by Tim Graves and posted on [LiturgyBits](https://liturgybits.wordpress.com). <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

FIRST READING

Notice that Deborah wisely realizes that this needs gifts other than her own. Her own strategic intelligence will form the plan to focus the attack. Barak's experienced soldiering will carry it out. Deborah knows the importance of bringing together different gifts. She is not in the least threatened by seeking them out. Notice that the same is true of Barak. Maybe that's why she turns to him. These two may well have worked together before. There may be a lot behind the exchange between them in verses 8 and 9. Barak says "If you will go with me, I will go..." And Deborah says "I will surely go with you."

We see it so often in the Bible - the power of combining different gifts. Jesus practises it. St Paul emphasizes it. When different gifts in a congregation are combined, wonderful things can happen.

THE PSALM

To you I lift up my eyes. For the most part in today's society we look at one another on the level. Even when an encounter is, let's say, between a job applicant and an employer, there will be direct eye contact. However the Psalm reminds us that there is One before whom we would be wise to lift our eyes in praise and prayer, and, by implication, before whom we should lower our eyes in humility. That One is God as our personal Lord.

THE SECOND READING

Paula insists that our Lord's promised return will not be some kind of magic event for which the Christian community has only to wait passively. Rather it is an event for which every day of one's life can be a preparation. Paul gives us an image of a christian rising from bed each morning, getting ready to live a new day with a spirit of faith, love and hope, as one might put on one's clothes for the day.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Living life as it should be lived is a theme that was always near to Jesus' heart. In this parable I hear Him saying to me "Act, risk, venture, try, give yourself rather than hoard yourself". I think the really important part of the parable is "Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten talents"...Its among the harshest things Jesus ever said. This parable is not just about little bags of gold. It is about the gift of human life that we all receive and the particular gifts that we all receive with that life. A well known phrase of our own day says what Jesus is saying - use your gifts or lose them. It is about how we use or offer or invest these gifts. It is about the attitude we bring to the living of our lives. Notice how harshly the servant is condemned. We need to remind ourselves this is for something he didn't do! We tend to think that God is exercised about the misdeeds we do. Fact is God may be much more exercised about the worth while deeds we don't do!

Herbert O'Driscoll

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.

All things break. And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with intention.

So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.

The broken world waits in darkness for the
light that is you.”

– L.R. Knost

News and Notes

November 15, 2020

Youth & Families Update

ignYte Youth

Nov. 15 - Sunday @ 7 on Zoom

Nov. 22 - Sunday @ 7 on Zoom

Nov. 28 - 3pm Christmas card/lunch bag decorating

Families

Nov. 15, 4pm - Online Kids' Church

Nov. 29, 4pm - Family Advent Service

An opportunity for parents and kids to start the Advent journey together as we join for community, crafts, and worship.

Liminal Space: Embracing the Mystery and Power of Transition (February 5-7, 2021)

Please join us at Loon Lake for the 2nd annual Men's Retreat centering around the theme ***Liminal Space***. Our guest speaker, author Brad Jersak, will offer his thoughts and insights on life transitions during his time with us.

To register and reserve your spot, please contact Detlef Beck by January 15, 2021. Phone 604-992-7929/ detlefb2@gmail.com.

Cost is \$395 per person includes private room and all meals.

Virtual Hugs Community Auction

Como Lake United Church is hosting an online auction. The auction goes live at 12:01am on Sunday, November 15th and will close at 6pm on Tuesday, December 1st.

Gift Baskets* Artwork* Antiques & Collectibles* Home Preserves* Seasonal Greenery Hanging Baskets and much more!

www.comolakeunitedchurch.com/new/virtual-hugs-community-auction