
St. John's United Church



An Affirming, Fully Inclusive Ministry
November 25, 2018

Welcome to all worshipping with us today.

You are invited to come downstairs to share in a cup of coffee or tea and some conversation after the service. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign the guest book in the church entryway and include your email address if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

St. John's welcomes Children into Worship

Families with babies/toddlers are invited into the Family Room (opposite the main entrance to the Church, at the back of the Sanctuary). Older children are welcomed into Worship with the rest of the congregation. Activity packs are available for them to take into Worship.

Last Sunday after Pentecost

Hymnals indicated by: **VU**–Voices United & **MV**–More Voices

**You are invited to stand, if it is comfortable for you.*

Prelude

Ken Dalglish

Welcome, Acknowledgement, Announcements

Rev. Alan Claassen

Invocation & Lighting of the Christ Candle

May the light of Jesus Christ

become the light in our hearts.

May the light in our hearts,

become the peace in our world.

Gathering Song

Lord, Prepare Me

MV #18

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 100*

Brian Smith

Birds sing. Leaves quake. Thunder claps. Waters gurgle.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Children hum. Elders smile. Teens tune in.

Shower-soloists belt out praise.

We gather in God's presence with a joyful noise.

We rise and we eat.

We work and play and rest.

We listen and we respond.

Let's enter this moment with thanksgiving and praise;

For God is good and steadfast in love forever.

***Hymn**

For the Beauty of the Earth

VU #226

***Opening Prayer**

by Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Enveloped in Your Light,

may I be a beacon to those in search of Light.

Sheltered in Your Peace,

may I offer shelter to those in need of peace.

Embraced by Your Presence,

so may I be present to others.

For all our relations, may it be so. Amen. Amen

***Sharing the Peace of Christ saying:**

Rev. Alan Claassen

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours
with a handshake, a hug, or with hands together in prayer.*

Regathering Song *For the Beauty of the Earth* (chorus)

God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Spirit Sightings

Scripture Reading Philippians 4:4-9 *Brian Smith*

Poetry Reading *A Valley Like This*

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,
as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.
Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem *Jesus Loves the Little Children* *medley*

Sermon Thanks, Again, and Again *Rev. Alan Claassen*

A Moment for Silent Reflection

Hymn *God of the Sparrow* **VU #229**

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus **VU #959**

Blessed to Share

Offertory *Ken Dalglish*

***Doxology** *Draw the Circle Wide (chorus)* **MV #145**

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

***Prayer of Dedication** *Rev. Alan Claassen*

**We offer our thanks to save the seeds of God's promises
and to turn our gratitude into many acts of faith.
We offer our thanks to find ways
to offer bread to the hungry and drink for the thirsty.
We offer whatever is true and noble in us to be blessed
so we may be a blessing of peace. Amen.**

***Hymn** *O Beautiful Gaia (vs 1-3)* **MV #41**

*Blessing

***Departing Song** *O Beautiful Gaia (vs 4)* **MV #41**

Thank you to those who contributed to our worship service this morning: readers, greeters, refreshment makers, musicians, to name just a few!



We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered on
the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh First Nation.



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HOUSEKEEPING NOTES:

- ♦ The chairs **do need to be put away** after the service today. Please stack like colors and types (arms vs no arms) 8 chairs tall, away from the wall.
- ♦ Clean-up brought to you by the letters: **D, J, R, Y**
Those whose last name begins with these letters are asked to help with cleaning up after our time of coffee, tea and fellowship together.
- ♦ **REMINDER** 'Tis the season....if you have turned the heat up, please remember to turn it back down!

St. John's United Church

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Minister: Rev Alan Claassen..... alan.claassen@gmail.com 604-989-7687

Minister's work week is Sunday to Thursday.

Office Administrator: Karen Weatherington..... 604-885-9822

Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 1:00-3:30 pm

St. John's Announcements •

November 25, 2018

♦ **Meet our New Office Administrator** During our Celebrations at Coffee Time after the service today, Karen Weatherington will be here so you can have a chance to meet her in person. Please give her a warm welcome.

♦ **Christmas Cards for First United** Donations of new Christmas cards which can be sent by community members at First United Church are most welcome. The Church organizes an afternoon writing and posting event where folks from the community can send cards to out-of-town family members during the season. Jim Hatherly will be happy to pick them up from the First United Church collection box by December 8. Thank you for your support. Also, in the hallway are Advent Donation envelopes & cards for First United.

♦ **Calling All Quilters** - Wednesday November 28, from 10 am to 2:30 pm. We need quilters, pressers, cutters, and yes, even folks to put on the coffee! Hope to see you there!

♦ **Soup for the Soul** next supper is **Thursday, Dec 6, 5-7 pm** in the lower hall. A simple meal, music, spiritual practice in a relaxed setting - opening Sunday Scripture and Poetry for shared reflection. All are welcome! A sign up sheet is available in the church entryway. For more info contact Glenn Inglis, 604-989-1305 or Donna Currie, 604-885-2850)

♦ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** More knitters would be welcome to our Wednesday 2-3:30, or Friday 10:30-12 gatherings. If you've wanted to learn to knit, we will teach you. These shawls are easy to knit and it is a good time for growing friendships. For information call Sharon McElroy at 604-399-9772. Meetings are at her home: 4459 Stalashen Dr. Sechelt (East) off Mission Pt Rd.

♦ **Christmas Cookie Caper** Saturday December 15 from 9am to 12 noon Yes it's that time again! Last year's cookies were fantastic and the desire for them from the community was very clear. Please think about what you would like to bake. We need **lots** of bakers! More details to come!

♦ **syiyaya: First Contact** Film screenings at Sechelt Public Library Monday November 26 and Monday Dec 3 at 7:00 pm Please RSVP on the syiyaya facebook event page, or by email to scsyiyaya@gmail.com so we have a sense of numbers for refreshments.

♦ **Thanks to the Freezer Angels from the Saari Family:** There comes a time when a family stops saying 'no thank you' and simply says 'yes please'. My husband recently had major surgery and I quietly had a very painful stroke. Not eating was fine until my husband got out of the hospital and decided to eat the candy store empty because I wasn't offering anything worth eating and had to admit the reason. You are all in my prayers and soon I will contribute back.

Philippians 4:4-9

The Message by Eugene Peterson

Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in God! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them.

Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns.

Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.

Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies

Poetry Reading
A Valley Like This
by William Stafford

Sometimes you look at an empty valley like this,
and suddenly the air is filled with snow.
That is the way the whole world happened—
there was nothing, and then...

But maybe some time you will look out
and even the mountains are gone,
the world become nothing again.

What can a person do to help
bring back the world?

We have to watch it and then look at each other.
Together we hold it close
and carefully save it,
like a bubble that can disappear if we don't watch out.

Please think about this as you go on.
Breath on the world.
Hold out your hands to it.
When mornings and evenings
roll along,
watch how they open and close,
how they invite you
to the long party that your life is.

♦ **A Note of Thanks from Nancy Smith:**

What a privilege it has been for me to serve in the role of Office Administrator the past four years at St. John's. I have felt well supported in my responsibilities and the greatest blessing has been the opportunity the role has provided for deepening connections with all of you.

My time in the office allowed me to witness and come to truly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the staff, Board and many volunteers who care so deeply about our community of faith. I feel grateful for the abundant grace, wisdom, compassion and humour in this congregation and have been richly blessed by you.

Thanks for your emails, notes and well wishes and for the presentation of beautiful flowers and gift certificate last Sunday. I plan to purchase a new backpack to carry with me as Rick and I embark on our exploration of South America in the new year.

Karen Weatherington, our new Office Administrator, brings many gifts to the role and I know you will enjoy getting to know her personally and professionally. Come meet her this morning during coffee time!

I'm proud to call St. John's home and am looking forward to a time of ongoing service alongside you . . . in a volunteer capacity now.

With love and gratitude,

Nancy

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

♦ **Choral Evensong** Sunday November 25, 5:00 pm at St. Bart's Anglican Church
All are invited for a time of prayer and contemplation before Advent & Christmas.

♦ **Songs of Angels a Choral Concert: A Cappella Strait & Choralations**
Children's Choir on Friday Nov 30 at 7:00 pm at St. Johns's United & Saturday Dec 1 at 7:00 pm at Highland Centre, Roberts Creek. For more info see poster.

What's Happening This Week				
Sun	25	9:20 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer Worship Service Celebrations during Coffee Time	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary Lower Hall
Mon	26	10:00 am	Qigong Ministry	Sanctuary
Tues	27	6:30 pm	Geography of Grace	Sanctuary
Wed	28	9:30 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	St. John's Quilters & Friends Church Board Meeting Faith on Tap	Lower Hall Sanctuary Blackfish Pub Gibsons
Thurs	29	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	St. John's Artists St. John's Choir Rehearsal	Lower Hall Sanctuary
Fri	30	10:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry	McElroy Home
DECEMBER Sun	02	9:20 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer Communion Service	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary