

July 24, 2011

Pentecost 6 Year A

**Welcome to
Ellesmere United Church**


Unit 160-8960 University High Street, Burnaby, BC, V5A 4Y6

If this is your first time with us, thank you for coming. Your presence is a blessing for us.

We hope you find a community for worship and a place for personal prayer.

If you have any questions about the order or nature of our community worship, feel free to ask your greeter today, the minister, or the people around you.

We want you to be comfortable and unburdened in our midst, and at peace in your experience of God in worship.

*  Indicates the community standing as able.

@ Indicates the text the minister is reading and reflecting on this Sunday.

What's Happening in Our Faith Community (from 10:45 until 11:00)

Thought for the Day

We claim that God is ever present – Are there times when you sense God's presence more than others? Why?

Opening of Worship

Leader: Today the Scripture speaks of a very small seed that grows into a mighty tree, so we light a very small flame to symbolize the light that is Christ, but the nature of this light shines beyond our limits and limitations. (Lights Christ Candle)

Community: **May we acknowledge that faith, like this flame is caught and taught. May we seek to grow in depth of personhood and in grounding in Christ.**

Silent Prayer of Centering

(Let the sounding of the singing bowl lead you into a time of silent centering prayer and with its second sounding bring you back to community.)

Holy Greeting

Minister: The grace of our Sovereign Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Community: **And also with you.**

♪ Song MV #122 *This Is the Day*

Prayer

Minister: Here O People of God, our God is One, and we are called to worship God who we experience as Creator, as Christ and as Holy Spirit in the mystic dance of creation.

Community: **Holy God, in your presence we remember those times in our lives when our hearts were passionate about our faith and easily we could mark our growth in the Spirit.**

Minister: For many we lift up our experience of childhood when our beliefs were more certain, yet for many this was a time of isolation and the experience of living in community was painful.

Community: **O God, as the years have advanced we have become less naïve but with this growth there has been even greater pain. We wonder why people need to hurt each other when loving could be so easy. Yet we know that life has always been complex and that easy platitudes seldom answer deep spiritual questions and longings.**

Minister: Holy Spirit, intercede for us, we pray with sighs too deep for words!

Community: **Amen.**

♪ Invitation to the Scriptures:

MV#170 *Ubi Caritas et Amor*

Writings of the Early Church

@Romans 8: 26-39

Minister: This is the witness of the Early Church.

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 105 VU p. 828

Read responsively with refrain sung at places marked 'R'.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Lay Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Community: **Write these words on our hearts dear God!**

Musical Reflections

Theological Reflections – Ah, I Hear You – Oh, Do You Hear Me?

♪ **Song MV #147 *God, Help Us to Treasure***

Invitation to Give

♪ **Song of Praise and Dedication**

In gratitude and humble trust

We bring our best today

To serve your cause and share your love

With all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us

In Jesus Christ, your Son,

Teach us to give ourselves each day

Until life's work is done!

Prayers of the Community – Voiced and Silent

(If Voiced)

Individual: God hear our prayer.

Community: And in your love answer.

Prayer of Jesus (Ecumenical Version)

**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.

**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 and Amen.**

♪ *Song VU #578 As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*

Closing of Worship

Leader: Let the Spirit of God continue to provide you with a deep and strong inner light that we burn brightly long after this flame is snuffed. (Puts out Christ Candle)

Community: **Let the blessings of God's Spirit continue to bring to the surface those deep places that now are only groans. May She give expression and words to our innermost being and to the faith that sustains us this day and in the week ahead.**

Closing Blessing

♪ **Choral Amen.**

