

July 31, 2011

Pentecost 7 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.

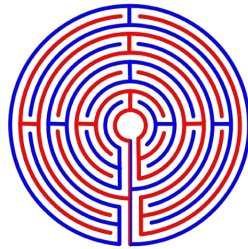
We hope you find a community for worship and a place for personal prayer.

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

Do you believe in miracles – what would it take for you to believe if you do not?

Opening of Worship

Leader: We light a candle that we might observe the gentle flicker of a small light that penetrates even the deepest darkness.

(Lights Christ Candle)

Community: This light symbolizes the radiant oneness of God that shines in all parts of creation that we proclaim to be seen most clearly in humanity in the light that is 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 #154 *Deep in Our Hearts***

Prayer

Minister: Your openhandedness is profuse, O Christ; your grace and mercy is offered freely and lovingly, your gentle nature so easily accessible, your compassion so reliable.

Community: **We lift up our thankful hearts for all bounty that we receive, and for the goodness your grace brings into our lives; we praise you for the abundant life you offer.**

Minister: Yet, Jesus, we are also anxious, that your gifts may not be enough, that our circumstances may change and we may find ourselves in desperation, and so we seek security in what we know and have, and estrange ourselves from our neighbours.

Community: **Pardon our lack of faith, and our egocentric nature; forgive us for our failure to appreciate that your blessings are forever to be shared; instruct us to find your bounty and your blessing in our sharing and to observe the miracles that abound when we do! Amen.**

♪ **Invitation to the Scriptures:**
MV #170 Ubi Caritas et Amor

Writings of the Early Church

Romans 9: 1-5

Lay Reader: This is the witness of the Early Church.

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 17 VU p.739

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

@ **Gospel:** Matthew 14: 13-21

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

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

Musical Reflections

Theological Reflections – Leftovers?

♪ **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 MV #34 *All Is Done for the Glory*

Closing of Worship

Leader: This Christ Candle is a symbol of the presence of Christ that is the mystery of the Church. This light now leaps from this time and place to shine in your hearts that it might be a source of inner joy as you continue your journey to the compassionate life in the Spirit.

(Puts out Christ Candle)

Community: **Let the blessings of God's Spirit continue to bring miracles of caring and sharing that astound a world centered on scarcity and fear.**

Closing Blessing

♪ Choral Amen.

