

September 4, 2011

ORDINARY TIME 23 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 9:45 until 10:00)

Thought for the Day

We claim that God is ever present – Are there places where you sense God's presence more than others?

Opening of Worship

Leader: Today the Scripture speaks of enlightened behavior. We are called as Christians to focus on the way of the Gospel where the light that is Christ shines. (Lights Christ Candle)

Community: **May this light symbolize the spiritual presence of the Holy One as it shines on and calls forth the better spiritual yearnings of humanity.**

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 the sovereign Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Community: **And also with you.**

♪*Song VU #458 Christ, Let Us Come with You*

Prayer

Minister: Here O people of God, our God is One, and we are called to worship God whose presence is mystery, whose appearance hidden, but whom we believe to be most fully known in and through Jesus of Nazareth.

Community: **Holy God, we confess to you if not to our neighbour that we like to gossip. We love having the dirt on someone and secretly relish feeling how much better we are than they. For when we are truly reflective we become aware of the shadow within us that is envious of others' abilities, gifts, popularity, or position in our society.**

Minister: Forgive us, O God, our trespasses, and if we believe we have been trespassed let us have the courage to be forthright and honest, while remaining open to the knowledge that our perceptions may not be accurate nor our intentions noble.

Community: **O God, grant us the ability to keep a child-like wonder of you and your creation while putting both childish ways behind us.**

♪**Invitation to the Scriptures:**

MV #90 *Don't Be Afraid*

Hebrew Scripture

Romans 13: 8-14

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

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 149 VU p. 873

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

@ Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

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

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

Musical Reflections

Theological Reflections – Beyond 'B'ing

♪ **Song VU #560 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee***

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 #664 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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 light is snuffed. (Puts out Christ Candle)

Community: Let the blessings of God's Spirit continue to bring to the surface those deep experiences that lead us to a closer relationship with each other and with God.

Closing Blessing

♪Choral Amen.

