

October 30, 2011

ORDINARY TIME 31 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

What would the sum be if you gave God what you have to give to Caesar?

If the State says 5% of Goods and Services – should God's saintly tariff (GST) on Goods and Services be any less?

You give to Caesar for the benefits of living in this nation. What do you give to God for the benefits of living on this planet?

Opening of Worship

A single candle is a gentle warmth, say for a coffee or tea pot. A single candle is what we measure the intensity of a light bulb. A single candle is a sign of romance. May the lighting of this candle be only the beginning! (Lights Christ Candle)

Community: May our worship this day radiate the glory and love of God and be only the beginning of what God's light brings!

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 #37 *Each Blade of Grass***

Prayer

Minister: Holy One, through the Gospel this day you call us to see who or what it is that we truly worship. You are faithful through 1,000 generations for those who reverence you. Yet you are a God who tolerates no substitutes.

Community: **Holy One, help us to discern that which is truly life-affirming and the source of our joy and happiness. Then, by your grace, aid us in sharing and serving a God who is life and love.**

Minister: Holy One, move us forward. Loving God, lead us in the ways of love that mirror the teaching of Christ. Nurturing God, guide us in the direction you would have us go.

Community: We pray for these gifts and blessings for our entire community of faith, and ultimately the communities in which we live. We pray for a world transformed through genuine caring and generous sharing. We pray trusting in your name, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

♪ Invitation to the Scriptures:

VU #579 *The Church Is Wherever God's People*

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

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

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 99 VU p. 819

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

@**Gospel:** Matthew 23: 1-12

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

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

Musical Reflections

Theological Reflections – “Don't You Dare”

♪ **Song MV #139 *True Faith Needs No Defence***

Invitation to Give

♪ **Song of Praise and Dedication**

With grateful hearts and open hands

*we bring our tithe this day
to aid your cause, proclaim your love,
and celebrate your Way.
O God, who shines most true for us,
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to walk by faith each day
until your kingdom comes!*

**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 # 181 *Lord, Your Hands Have Formed*

Closing of Worship

Leader: May this experience of worship have brought us closer together and closer to you, O Christ.
(Puts out Christ Candle)

Community: **May God guide and keep us until we gather again, may God's glory surround us, and may the face of Christ ever be in our hearts and minds, and may we live at peace with ourselves.**

Closing Blessing

♪Choral Amen

