

Hope Lutheran Church
Home Worship
July 18, 2021 — Pentecost 8
*We acknowledge our presence on the traditional territory
of the Snuneymuxw First Nation*



Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn - Bind us Together

[Bind Us Together, Lord \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
Lord, bind us together with love.

There is only one God, there is only one King.
There is only one Body, that is why we can sing:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Children's Corner

First Reading – Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil

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doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Ephesians 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel – Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Face of Compassion

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Cf. Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22

Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo, B.C. Zoom Worship July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost B

“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not be in want..” Sound familiar? We all likely recognize this line from Psalm 23. For centuries, the Jewish people saw YHWH as their shepherd the one who loved them into being, who guided, provided for, and protected them. Yet they often strayed away and got themselves into all sorts of difficulties. In Jesus’ day, they are under Roman rule. The ruler-priests and families keep their wealth and power by kow-towing to the Romans. However, for the common people things are not so wonderful. They have to pay heavy taxes to Rome and many end up in debt. The richer families then seize their land inheritance and leave them to live as tenant farmers paying unreasonably high rents, or becoming day labourers at wages that barely feed them, or begging for money to feed their families, or even being imprisoned or made slaves. The Romans also introduce elements of Greek and Roman culture that threaten to take away the people’s Jewish way of life and identity. Sound familiar? To protect their

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identity, many try to use the purity laws of Scripture as their norm for behaviour but this divides the people into clean and unclean and one group despises the other! Some decide to go off and live in the desert and keep their culture and religion by leaving society. They know in their heads that God is their Shepherd yet they act as if they have no shepherd. Into this situation, God-in-flesh, Jesus comes.

Jesus has been training twelve of his followers to be apostles, that is, sent out ones. They are a motley crew of fishers, tax collectors, revolutionaries, and the like. Not the ones you or I might choose! He gives them authority and they go out and proclaim repentance, cast out demons, and heal the sick-just as Jesus has been doing. When they come back, they report to Jesus all they have done and taught.

The first thing Jesus does is notice how tired and hungry they are and he takes them off in a boat to the other side of the lake, a deserted place, to rest. However, Galilee is an area of very small towns where everybody knows everybody else, and minds their business! When they see this small group going off to a place with few or no people they immediately wonder: what are they up to? Why are they going off? And they follow on foot and by land and even get there before them!

Tired as he and the apostles are, when Jesus sees these crowds he recognizes them for what they are: they are “like” sheep without a shepherd, that is people who have a shepherd but are acting and living as though they don’t. Does Jesus tell them all to go home and leave them alone? NO. Jesus has compassion on them, teaches them, and, in the part of the story we did not hear today, feeds them! Then returning to the other side of the lake, Jesus continues to show compassion to those who place their sick in the middle of the marketplace so that they can be healed and Jesus heals them!

What about our society? In recent news we hear of a man using a shopping cart to carry his belongings being deliberately run down by a driver and pepper sprayed. We hear of the finding of more than 1000 unmarked and undocumented graves of Indigenous children who were taken to residential schools and never heard from again. We hear of fans targeting players of colour in football matches. We hear of memorials to missing Indigenous children defaced and destroyed, churches defaced and burned. A Muslim family is deliberately run down and killed with only a small boy surviving.

People are in deep debt, losing homes and businesses, forced into homelessness. When shelters for the homeless are erected in parks, residents complain and

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demand that “those people” be sent on their way. Where is the face of compassion here?

As Christians, where are we in all this? We are being called by our Shepherd to “boldly go where no one has gone before” and we are not even sure where “there” is! However, we may get some ideas from our ancestors in the faith.

In a recent article, The Most Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, notes that the early Christians achieved spectacular growth by acting according to their faith. When facing death in the Coliseum they gave each other a kiss of peace regardless of their social class- a big no-no in those days. When pandemics hit, they came out of hiding to attend to the dying and were seen entering the scene of the pandemic while others were fleeing. They showed Jesus’ face of compassion to the people around them. (“Our baptism” Page 35, *Canada Lutheran* Vol. 36, No. 4 June 2021)

But we are so few! We are too old, too young, too feeble, too We sometimes sound and act like sheep who have no shepherd even though we know we have! We think we have to do it all by ourselves, in our own strength, in our own way and without any help. No wonder we end up doing nothing! We forget that the mission given us is not up to us on our own, and that even with God’s gifts in each of us, we, as individuals and as Church, cannot do anything without the compassion, love and provision of our Shepherd! What can we do?

First of all, we ASK our Shepherd for forgiveness, guidance, discernment, wisdom and a change of our hearts. A slogan from my early days was: Think Globally and Act Locally. Look around you. Are there homeless? Are there hungry? Is there environmental damage of waterways or wildlife? Is there garbage by the side of our streets and roads? Are we driving a gas guzzler? Is it almost impossible to find reasonably priced rental accommodation? Does that person ahead of us in the store need assistance in getting something from a too-high shelf? Are there unneeded items taking up space in our wardrobe or on shelves or in sheds that someone else can use and can we donate them to The Salvation Army, Value Village, Habitat for Humanity or some other charitable group? If we see someone begging can we smile at them and talk with them instead of just throwing money in their cap? Can we smile at clerks and call them by name and ask them how they are coping with the pandemic?

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Secondly, DO SOMETHING. Start small. Do what you can and ask God to make your actions the face of the compassion in your community.

Thirdly, join with others. There is a reason Jesus sent them out in pairs! We all need encouragement and support. Are there other groups in our community that we can partner with? When we stop seeking recognition for our deeds of compassion and just do them, we can move mountains.

Last but not least, tell God each day what you have said and done, then rest, and in the morning ask God to guide you to the people and situations where God wants you to be and to guide your words and deeds when you get there. Then GO and DO.

As Pastor Terry said so well last week: “Jesus is present always calling you, “Follow me! I’ll show you what compassion, respect, reconciliation, community and the grace of God mean, Follow me! You CAN do it”.

Go and be our Shepherd’s face of compassion in our world. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Saviour, like a Shepherd Lead Us (ELW 789)

[Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us - YouTube](#)

1. Saviour, like a Shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care.
 - > In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou has bought us; thine we are.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou has bought us; thine we are.
 - >
 - > 2. We are thine; do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
 - > Keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when they pray.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when they pray.
 - >
 - > 3. Thou has promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
 - > Thou has mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.
 - >
 - > 4. Early let us seek thy favour, early let us do thy will;
 - > Blessed Lord and only Saviour, with thy love our beings fill.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou has loved us, love us still.
 - > Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou has loved us, love us still.

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Prayers of Intercession

As we move from hearing your word to being fed at your table, we pray for the life of the church, the world, and people in need.

(A moment of silence)

Send your church out into the multi-cultural life society we share in Canada. Help us to cross boundaries and welcome refugees with compassion and acts of peace and neighbourliness. God of wisdom, God of truth, **Have mercy upon us.**

Let us open our hearts to the gifts of creation, to the relaxation and pleasures of summer sun and outdoor activities. May we honour your bounty and always act in ways that preserve the world for coming generations. God of wisdom, God of truth, **Have mercy upon us.**

Strengthen all voices crying out for freedom. Make us advocates for those who are overlooked, oppressed, and abused. Use us as conduits of what is good, what is right, and what is true as we participate in Canada's democracy. God of wisdom, God of truth, **Have mercy upon us.**

Call us to be good neighbours to those living around our homes and our church, and in all the communities of service in which we participate. Bless all the voluntary social services that improve daily life--food banks and community kitchens, palliative care, and literacy programs. God of wisdom, God of truth, **Have mercy upon us.**

Open our minds to the wisdom of varied spiritual traditions, and engage us in dialogue with the people who practise them. We pray especially for our partner *Anglican Church of Canada* and our own **Bishop Greg**. We pray for the congregations of our BC Synod: *Hills of Peace Lutheran* in Kamloops and Pastor **Jane Gingrich** and our *Global Mission Companion*, the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru*. God of wisdom, God of truth, **Have mercy upon us.**

Teach us to recognize the wholeness and healing that threads its way through the brokenness of our lives. Make us pilgrims on our path with you, as we confront anxiety and depression, and the illness and injury we experience personally and we witness in others. We pray especially for those we name aloud or in our hearts...

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*Eva Alvarez; Annie; Barb; Dale Bender; Marj Bieber; Natalie Bowles;
Ron Cantelon; Haley; Jessica & family; Mary & family; Louise;
June H; Kira; Virginie Flacco; Lisa Fujikawa; Kevin H; Doug Hainsworth;
Dean Hyslop; James Hyslop & family; Lisa;
Carole & Clyde Ortner; Renata; Lorne Schwartz; Marilyn Sedo;
Sharon & Charlie; Tania Strauss; Jennie Wharton & family;
the family of Paul Chell, Zack...*

God of wisdom, God of truth, **Have mercy upon us.**

Basking in your generosity, we turn our cares and our celebrations over to you. In the name of the Christ, **Amen.**

The Peace [*unmute*]

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,
or some other gesture of peace)*

The Meal

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at this time and in our homes give thanks and praise... even as we watch one another on the screen and hear those voices from afar....

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread (*raise the bread*), and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: ***“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”***

Again, after supper, he took the cup (*raise the cup*), gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: ***“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”***

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Send your Spirit to renew our lives that we may live out of gratitude, encouraged and sent by the one who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer song *(link line below)*

https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/CKt_sqf1Cs0VGqvSrwZi-A/

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Hallowed be your name, Hallelujah.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as in heaven, Hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Give us today our daily bread, give us today our bread,
Give us our bread today, Hallelujah.
Forgive our sins as we forgive
Forgive our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us, Hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Save us from the time of trial, save us from the trial.
Deliver us from evil, Hallelujah.
For the kingdom and the power are yours,
The kingdom and the power are yours,
the glory now and ever, Hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen.**

Communion

You are the body of Christ in the world. Receive what you are. Become what you receive. Taste and see that the Lord is indeed good.

(If you are with someone else, say these words as you offer communion...)

Bread: "Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you."

Cup: "Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

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Blessing

May YHWH (Yahweh) bless and keep you.
May YHWH's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May YHWH look upon you with favour + and give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn: God of the Movements and Martyrs

[God of the Movements and Martyrs - A Hymn by David LaMotte arranged and performed by The Many - YouTube](#)

1. God of the movements and martyrs, God of the powerless child,
God of the hurt and the hopeless and unreconciled,
God of the just and the faithful, God of the night and the day,
God of the whole of creation, in your name we pray.
Many have followed the Saviour into the face of the storm,
Strengthened by long generations, by love they were formed.
In basements of tall steepled churches, in shadows of fences and walls,
In alleys and hallways of power, they answered your call.

2. Now it's our turn to do justice, humbly we rise to the day,
Give us the strength and the wisdom to walk in your way.
Gather the loaves and the fishes, share until all have been fed,
Walk in compassion and mercy, by love we'll be led,
Standing in circles surrounding, all holding hands while we pray,
When powers bear down on the helpless, we'll stand in the way.
God of the worn and the wounded, let us be healed by the truth,
When doorways are blocked, we will lower our friends through the roof.

3. God of the circle that holds us, God of the ones pushed away,
We will reach out to our neighbours; in your name we'll say:
No matter your creed or your country, no matter the hue of your skin,
Your age, who you love, or the body your soul was born in,
No matter the places you're broken, no matter the things you have done,
Lay down that weight on the altar, a new day's begun.
You are a child of the maker, you are beloved and known,
Join us in work of the kin-dom, we welcome you home.
Join us in work of the kin-dom, we welcome you home.

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Go in peace, the Lord is with you.
Thanks be to God!

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Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: (musician selecting hymns): *Cheryl Satre*

Reader: Brenda MacDonald

Prayers: Peter Clark

Zoom Hosts: *Sue Grant & Garth Wedemire; Gerry Owen(Back up); Glenn Harvey; John Musgreave; Curt Satre; Gail Smith(Co-hosts).*

Readings for next Sunday - Pentecost 9

2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21