



*Hope Lutheran Church*  
*Home Worship*  
**October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20**

*We acknowledge our presence on the traditional territory  
of the Snuneymuxw First Nation*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Hymn # 824 This is My Father's World**

<https://youtu.be/N3ZVLOLMRMw>

**This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.**

**This is my Father's world, he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world; oh, let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet**

**This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let the heaven ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad.**

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**

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Children's Corner**

**First Reading<sup>1</sup> - Isaiah 45:1-7**

Thus says YHWH to the Anointed one, Cyrus, whom I have taken by the right hand, for whom I have subdued nations, stripped the loins of monarchs, and thrown open all doors so that even the town gates cannot be shut: I will go before you and level

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<sup>1</sup> From The Inclusive Bible, the first egalitarian translation, 2007.

***Hope Lutheran Church***  
***Home Worship***  
***October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

the mountains; I will shatter the bronze doors and cut through the bars of iron. I will give you the hidden treasures, and hoards from secret places, so that you may know that I am YHWH, Israel's God, who calls you by name. For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my Servant and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one, I called you by name conferring on you an honoured title, even though you do not know me. I am YHWH, and there is no other; there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not that nations may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides me. I am YHWH, there is no other. I form light and create darkness. I make peace and create evil. It is I YHWH, who do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading<sup>2</sup> – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

From Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, labouring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ. We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. In this way you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Hope Lutheran Church**  
**Home Worship**  
**October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20**

**Gospel<sup>3</sup> – Matthew 22: 15-22**

Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?” Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s” When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

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

**Sermon**



**Pentecost 20 – October 18, 2020**  
**Matthew 22:15-22**

*My grandson is growing up fast. He’ll soon be 4 years old. When I saw him last Christmas we read books, told stories, went for walks... and did puzzles. He has alphabet puzzles, animal puzzles, and a huge floor puzzle of a fire truck. While doing a puzzle, I like to make mistakes. I put the wheel of the fire truck on the ladder, or try to fit the letter Q piece after the letter F. He gives me a, “You can’t be serious Grandpa” look and says, “No. That doesn’t belong there. It goes here!” And I reply, “Of course! Yay!” My grandson hopes I will learn how to put pieces where they belong. You never get the whole picture without doing that.*

*Our gospel speaks of taxes, but that is not really the point. Competing allies tried to trap Jesus. Romans wanted control. Religion wanted compliance. Jesus answered belonging — just put things where they belong.*

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***Hope Lutheran Church***  
***Home Worship***  
***October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

**Taxes?**

On Christmas Eve, the gospel reading will tell us about a census and a journey to Bethlehem. Taxation was the life blood of the Roman Empire. Later on, a shortfall in tax revenue led to the Romans claiming all the silver in the Temple. Trouble over Roman occupation, taxation and expectations eventually led to the destruction of Jerusalem. So any opinion about taxes was dangerous territory.

Pharisees and sympathizers of the puppet king Herod used a question about taxes as an attempt to create a “lose-lose” moment for Jesus. “*Yes, pay,*” meant they could say he was in league with the Romans. “*No, don’t pay,*” could lead to his arrest. His popular teaching about the welcome of God was problematic because it dissolved barriers, and they their wanted barriers. He surprised them with an unexpected response.

“*When the Caesar wants his coin, give it,*” he announced. It’s like that today too. When Canada wants its money give it. God’s people have always paid for the roads, the lights, the police, the fire department, social services, and everything else that makes our country the relatively safe and peaceful place that it is. His use of the coin made the point. We are citizens and share the cost. It is common sense.

After using the coin, I imagine Jesus indicating the nearest person and adding, “*And give to God what is God’s.*” Put things where they belong.

*Tertullian*, a third century theologian, described the object lesson this way: “*Give to Caesar, Caesar’s image, which is on the coin; and to God, God’s image which is on each person.*”

Genesis 1:27 has already told us, “*God created people in God’s own image...*” It echoes through the scriptures. We are created in the image of God. We see each other. But where do we belong?

**What belongs where**

Bearing God’s image means belonging. Each person belongs to God whether we know it or not. We may gradually learn our value. It is whispered at baptism, at this table, and through every promise from God. In prayer we depend on it. In praise we celebrate it. In community we share it. Belonging means: grace, mercy,

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
**Home Worship**  
**October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20**

forgiveness, peace, and daily bread. It is the currency of faith. Our lives belong to God and we spend them with our neighbour, who also carries the image of God.

*I looked through pictures I have saved over the years. Seeing a group of old friends warmed my heart. My mother-in-law triggered a host of memories. My mom appeared and my eyes watered up. The image of people affects us. Jesus is clear that since we all belong to God, what we do for others is what we do for God. We put love where it belongs. That's why he twinned love for God and love for our neighbour as the two greatest commandments.*

When Jesus says, “Give to God what is God’s,” we are challenged to share the inexhaustible wealth of grace and mercy with those that need it. That is how we put things where they belong.

God’s image is printed on human beings. We give back to God through community with others, like:

- Helping in a struggle
- Making time for the lonely.
- Supporting the well-being of the vulnerable
- Phoning a shut-in.
- Donating to the food bank.
- Providing work clothing for released prisoners
- Welcoming the stranger

### **Belonging**

God’s love is available through us and multiplies when shared... just like the stories of bread and fishes or water becoming wine at a wedding. We first learned of this at baptism. When we could do nothing but cry in our neediness, we were loved and marked with a cross as a sign of belonging. Nothing has changed.

That Bethlehem story begins by telling us that Jesus belonged both to God and to us. That belonging meant sharing what he had: a message of hope and forgiveness, the bump and grind of life, suffering and death, and a morning of new life... He could have easily said, “We are in this together.”

In these pandemic days, we have to trust the one in whose image we are made as we live with kindness, calmness and safety. God has given us to each other and

***Hope Lutheran Church***  
***Home Worship***  
***October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

takes care of us that way. We dare to rely on one another. That is what belonging means.

My grandson taught me that when the pieces are put where they belong, everything is better. Jesus said that is true of our coins and our hearts. Put things where they belong and the world becomes a better place and we find our way through life one day at a time.

He shows us with every step he takes.

Amen.

**Hymn #483 Here Is Bread**

<https://youtu.be/i0UFCECriLo>

**Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.**

**Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here.**

**In this bread, there is healing, in this cup is life forever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.**

**Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
We'll proclaim till he comes, Jesus crucified.**

**In this bread, there is healing, in this cup is life forever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.  
In this bread, there is healing, in this cup is life forever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.**

***Welcoming a New Member of Hope Lutheran Church: Jean Roszmann***  
*(muted)*

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *Jean Roszmann*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of *Hope Lutheran Church*. ***Jean*** has come to our congregation from *Our*

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
**Home Worship**  
**October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20**

*Saviour Lutheran Church, Richmond.* With the whole church, let us confess our faith as we sit before the Zoom screen.

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Jesus Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*(unmute)*

**Jean, Sister in Christ,** do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place? If so, please WAVE and say:

***I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.***

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? If so, please WAVE and say:

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome this *sister in Christ* to *Hope Lutheran Church*. We rejoice with **Jean** in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world!

*(Everyone says, "Welcome Jean!")*

*(Mute again as we move into our prayers)*

**Prayers of Intercession**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

***Hope Lutheran Church***  
***Home Worship***  
***October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and mission developers. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Be with your servants, the Dean, Council and all the congregations of the *Vancouver Island Region* of the *BC Synod of the ELCIC*. Pour out your Spirit on the new Bishop of the *Anglican Diocese of British Columbia*, **Anna Greenwood-Lee**. Guide her and the Diocese in these difficult times. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, help this congregation to render to you all honor, glory, worship, and praise. Help us to render to one another the kindness, forgiveness and compassion which is their due. And help us to render to our neighbours the love, respect, and justice which you command. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger or doubt, especially:

*Bernie Hansen, Wendy Van Oldenborgh, Deanna Boks, Sue Dowty and family,  
Pearl Dunn, Tom Farkas, Barbara Foster, Diane Fredericks, Marge Fredericks,  
Rebecca Garber, Stan Hamm, Jean and Gerry Jacob, Liz Knight, Donna Kuffler,  
Daniel and Allana Landingin & Family, Derick & Loraine Mather, Andrew Mellis,  
Carole & Clyde Ortner, Rob Riches, Barbara Sheppard, Joan Spencer, Tania  
Strauss, Josie Tremblay, Janice Vosper, Ann, Brian, Derek and family, Donavon,  
Donna, Elaine, Jeff, Julie, Katja, Kira, Laila, Leah, Linley, Lone, Michael & family,  
Paul, Payton, Serena, Sherry, Shirley, Sigrid, Todd, Zack, Evelyn Fang, Roberto,  
Mary Murphy Demers..*

Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

***Hope Lutheran Church***  
***Home Worship***  
***October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the world of justices, magistrates, court officials and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Be with those who seek ways of reconciliation between the courts, police and our indigenous brothers and sisters. Lord in you mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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 give thanks and praise... as we spend these moments together at your table as you join us in our homes.... and so we praise your name and join in speaking these words of our hearts:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*(First raise the bread, and then the cup, as I speak the words of institution.)*

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took 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.”*

***Hope Lutheran Church  
Home Worship***

***October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

*Again, after supper, he took 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.”*

***Lord’s Prayer song***

**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 us our sins as we forgive  
Forgive us 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**

Taste and see that the Lord is 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.”**

Let us pray,

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this pandemic time of anxiety and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wis-

***Hope Lutheran Church***  
***Home Worship***  
***October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

dom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn #825 You Servants of God**

[https://youtu.be/wZ9j3e8\\_yQc](https://youtu.be/wZ9j3e8_yQc)

**You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**

**Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!**

**Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son.**

**The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and give him his right:**

**all glory and power, all wisdom and might,**

**all honor and blessing with angels above,**

**and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

Go in peace, the Lord is with you.

**Thanks be to God!**



***Hope Lutheran Church  
Home Worship  
October 18, 2020 — Pentecost 20***

Worship Assistants Today

*Reader: Intern Nic Alexandre*

*Prayers: Joan Nolting*

*Zoom Hosts: Glenn Harvey, Gail Smith, John Musgreave, Gerry Owen*