

Virtual Worship from St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Kamloops BC
Sunday, January 31, 2021 | The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Honouring the late Rt. Rev. Ellinah Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland
with rites from the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund 2020

Dean Ken and Melissa Green lead worship today; Dean Ken preaches; Alison Rustand leads music and Pat Rustand is at the piano.

Our service today originates from the traditional territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc – Kamloops & Area First Nation. We acknowledge their care for and working of the land prior to contact with Europeans. As Canadian Anglicans, we continue to work toward healing and reconciliation and a new experience of sharing the land together.

We give thanks to God for the life of the earth, which delights and sustains us.

As we gather online Pat Rustand plays gathering music.

WE GATHER ONLINE this morning

Dean Ken

in the context of a Jewish practice of prayer and music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-v3NyVxaTZU&feature=youtu.be>

Today's segment commences at 6:30 though the entire video is worth prayerful viewing.

God of our salvation,

Dean Ken

**Your bow in the clouds proclaims your covenant
with every living creature.**

**Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth,
so that by your Holy Spirit,**

we may remember our baptismal vows

and be keepers of your trust with the earth and its inhabitants. Amen.

HYMN

MV 10

Alison Rustand

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced, when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market-place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

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A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Melissa Green

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "this is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." GENESIS 9:8-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 – The Divine Shepherd

Melissa Green

The setting for the Twenty-Third Psalm – The Divine Shepherd, is by African-American composer, conductor and musician Bobby McFerrin. He dedicated it to his mother: "She was the driving force in my religious and spiritual education, and I have so many memories of her singing in church... I realized one of the ways we're shown a glimpse of how God loves us is through our mothers. They cherish our spirits, they demand that we become our best selves, and they take care of us. A video version is now played based on the text below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cn2zKKhhF3I> – used with permission via PWRDF

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

Melissa Green

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples.
And God himself will be with them.
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life; bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 21:1-5; 22:1-5

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN CP 37

Alison Rustand

We'll sing in the morning a song of creation,
Of your breath that stirs up the waters to birth;
And here at the fount of Christ's mercy we join you,
Co-heirs of heaven and stewards of your gracious earth.

We'll sing in the noontime a song of redemption:
How Naaman was cleansed in the flow of your grace;
How, when we were sick, in our sin you released us
To laugh in health and dance in love before your face.

We'll sing in the evening a song of your pastures,
Of rivers that gladden the city of God;
And when we arrive on the bank of our Jordan,
You'll help us through its cold by fords your saints have trod.

The late Ian Sowton (1929-2021)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=463086604709441&set=a.107875960230509>

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Life-giving Jesus Christ

Dean Ken

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." JOHN 15:1-5

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Life-giving Jesus Christ.**

SERMON Including <https://youtu.be/j2xZbuSRzxk>

Dean Ken

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Melissa Green

Let us confess our faith as we say,

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,**

**who works in others and us through the Spirit.
We trust in the Creator.**

**We are called to be,
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and to resist injustice,
to seek out models for hope and peace.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Melissa Green

This litany was offered by Archbishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop during PWRDF's Sharing Bread Learning Exchange at the Sorrento Centre, B.C., July 2015. In introducing the litany Archbishop Mark noted, "This first prayer that we're going to do is an adaptation; I think a beautiful adaptation that we will share with you that is based on the Mohawk thanksgiving prayer. If you've ever heard the Mohawk thanksgiving prayer don't be afraid because it takes a few hours to go through it."

Specific intentions are here offered

It was decided by our Creator that whenever we join together for any reason and in any way, we should give thanks. So let us put our hearts and minds together and think on all of the creation and the Creator's gifts.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of the reason why we are gathered. For this place, for all of the things that bring us here.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of all the people of the world, the men, women and children, with a special thought for the children who are our future.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of our Mother, the Earth, upon whom we walk and who supports us. We pray we can learn to walk on her with more respect.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us turn our minds to the waters of the world, the great oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, and the life that lives in the waters that gives itself up to be our food.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us now turn our thoughts to the plant life of the Creator's world. That which is below ground; the roots and vegetables. That which puts just its head above the ground: the grasses, medicines, plants and bushes. All of the many kinds of good fruit the Creator has given us. And

finally, the great trees of the forest that we know of as the “Standing Ones.”

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of all the animals in the world. We give thanks for those that provide food for us and those that provide beauty.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of the “Three Sisters,” corn, beans and squash. They are gifts from the Creator and our sustenance.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of the birds of the air. The feathered ones that are the messengers between us and the Creator.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Now let us turn our thoughts to that which is above our world; those helpers placed there by the Creator to ensure our world continues.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let’s turn our thoughts to the four winds, or the four directions, they that blow from a place we cannot see.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of our Grandfathers, the Thunderers, they that bring the rain to replenish the world’s waters.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us think of our Elder Brother, the Sun, for his light and warmth.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us have a special thought for our Grandmother, the Moon. She who regulates the passing of time and the coming of children.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

Let us turn our thoughts even higher, to our Brothers and Sisters the Stars. They that shine above us at night and give us beauty and direction.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

And finally we take all that we have spoken of, all that we do, and roll them all together and send it to the Creator with thanks.

Loving God. We give our thanks.

We are the body of Christ;

in the one spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

Dean Ken

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Alison Rustand

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Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy upon us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy upon us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Grant us your peace.**

Let us pray.

**O Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God;
In these times I cannot receive you sacramentally as I wish.
Come into my soul now, as you came into your world.
Bring healing and peace. Give comfort and joy.
Restore your Church in Love. Strengthen us for service
that when our wanderings end,
we may in courage and confidence
bring your love to all creation, Amen.**

Quiet time – Dean Ken at the piano

Glory to God

**Whose power, working us,
can do infinitely more**

than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Dean Ken

As we prepare to embrace the challenges of our lives and our world, let us ask for God's blessing.

May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth. **Amen!**

May God bless us with love to bring forth new life. **Amen!**

In the name of God, the Maker of the whole world, of Jesus, our new covenant, and of the Holy Spirit, who opens eyes and hearts. **Amen!**

Go in peace and be witnesses to hope. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Ken

HYMN MV 30

Alison Rustand

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver,
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,
And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,
And by the Spirit you and I

can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

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Followed by a sung BENEDICTION

Alison Rustand

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know He will guide you in all you do
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love
Amen. Amen. Amen.

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A postlude is played by Pat Rustand

An ANCS report on Bishop Ellinah's death can be found at

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2021/01/bishop-of-swaziland-and-global-environment-advocate-ellinah-wamukoya-dies-from-covid.aspx>

The full text of *A Covenant for Climate Justice - PWRDF Worship Resource 2020* can be downloaded at

<https://pwrdf.org/worshipresource2020/>

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL COMMUNION?

St. Teresa of Avila wrote: "When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you."

Spiritual communion is defined by St. Thomas Aquinas as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and in loving embracing him as if we had actually received him."

This ancient tradition of spiritual communion is available to all of us when we are not able to receive the bread and wine. After we have said the prayer asking Jesus to come to us spiritually we will sit quietly while listening for and being with God as music is played.