

# **Golden Ears United Church**

*Worshipping God, educating and serving in Christ's name,  
to help everyone deepen their relationship with God!*

(\*)- indicates that the congregation is invited to rise as they are able

**February 2, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**20/20 Vision: Seeing Blessing Upside Down**

## **God Calls Us Together**

### **Greeting**

**One:** The Peace of Christ be with you all

**All:** **And also with you**

**One:** Long before those of us who are settlers, and those of us who are descendants of settlers, came to this land, there were people here. Many nations of people lived—and live—on the land we call Canada, given responsibility by the Creator to be stewards of this land and all that lives on it. We know these first people as the First Nations, the Inuit and the Metis. Today as we gather for worship, let us remember that we worship God on the historic and unceded territory of Coast Salish peoples including the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations.

**All: As Christ's people, let us be people of Love, of Truth, and of Reconciliation**

**Life & Work of the Community**

**Welcoming Each Other**

**Threshold Moment**

One: Count your blessings.

Have any of you heard that expression –

“Count your blessings one by one”

It's easy to do when everything is going well –

It's easy to see blessing in the good things in life

A new job! What a blessing

Food on the table! What a blessing

A beautiful sunset! What a blessing

A loving and supportive friendship! What a blessing

But what about in the harder things of life...

it's harder to see blessings in the hard times.

You've lost a loved one and you are in mourning. Where's the blessing in that?

Your spirit is utterly empty and you're feeling dejected.

Where's the blessing in that?

You are being persecuted for your faith.

Where's the blessing in that?

Jesus turns everything upside down.

He sees the crowds following him,  
so he goes up the mountain,  
then sits down, and begins to teach them.  
In his teaching he turns everything upside down –  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
“Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

He teaches them, teaches us,  
a new way of seeing blessing.

It's like putting on a pair of glasses that turns everything  
upside down – or rather that takes everything upside down  
and turns it right side up.

That's Kingdom vision.

***Christ Candle is Lit – Let's light the Christ light to help  
us see in this new way.***

**\*Hymn: MV 115**

**“Behold, Behold”**

Words: John L. Bell

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**Behold, Behold,  
I make All things New, beginning with you  
and starting from today.  
Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.**

## OPENING PRAYER

God of light and revelation,  
in this season of Epiphany  
you expand our knowledge  
of your goodness by revealing yourself  
more and more clearly.

Through the stories of scripture  
and by the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit,  
you paint a clear picture  
of the glory of your Kingdom.

You revealed your Son to the World;  
and in his teaching he, in turn,  
revealed the breadth of your love  
for all people,  
and particularly for those  
facing challenge in their life.  
Loving God, Your light is strong,  
your love is near;  
draw us beyond the limits  
which this world imposes,  
to the life where your Spirit  
makes all life complete.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Adapted from Spill the Beans Vol 10.

**1.Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children  
tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**2.Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God’s children dare to seek  
to dream God’s reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God’s grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**3.Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;**

**as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

- 4. Let us build a house where hands will  
reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**
- 5. Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

### **God Speaks and We Listen**

**Learning Together**

***This Little Light of Mine***

**This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine,  
Let it shine,  
Let it shine.**

**Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine,  
Let it shine,  
Let it shine.**

### **God's Word Speaks to Us**

#### **Scripture: Matthew 5**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Hear the witness of God’s People

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection on the Word**



## **A Time for Silent Reflection**

**\*Hymn: VU 896**

**“Blest Are They”**

Words: David Haas  
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- 1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit,  
theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow,  
they shall be consoled.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessèd are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God.**
- 2 Blest are they, the lowly ones,  
they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,  
they shall have their fill. R**
- 3 Blest are they who show mercy,  
mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart,  
they shall see God. R**
- 4 Blest are they who seek peace;  
they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith,  
the glory of God is theirs. R**

**5 Blest are you who suffer hate,  
all because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom;  
shine for all to see. R**

## **We Respond to God's Call**

### **Celebrating God's Gifts – Offering**

#### **Musical Offering**

**\*Offering song: MV 182**

**Grateful**

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#### ***Refrain:***

**Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,  
O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.**

**2. May our lives proclaim your justice,  
may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service  
to the glory of your name. R**

## **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts, open your minds, open your eyes.

**We open them up to the Glory of God.**

Let us give thanks to our God of Light and Love.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God,

Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love...

... So it is that we join the song of all creation to  
proclaim your goodness:

*MV 203 Kingsfold Communion Set*

**O holy, holy holy God,**

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above  
bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n,  
creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes  
and bears your name always!**

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth  
we recognize the fullness of your grace:  
light, life, and love, revealed..

...Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving,  
we may so offer ourselves to you

that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

*MV 204 – Memorial Acclamation*

**Sing Christ has died.**

**And Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

***(repeat 2 times)***

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,  
that all who share in this loaf and cup  
may be the body of Christ:

light, life, and love in the world.

In this hope and as your people, we praise you.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, God most holy,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen**

## **Sharing Communion**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Gracious God,  
May your gifts of love transform our vision  
and enliven us to see the world as you see.  
May this meal open our eyes to your vision of a  
world where every table  
knows abundance and welcome.  
May we never be satisfied until all of creation  
knows your justice and your love.  
Amen.**

### **God Sends Us Out to Serve the World**

**\*Hymn: VU 586**

**“We Shall Go Out With Hope  
of Resurrection”**

Words: June Boyce-Tillman  
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**1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;**

**we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.**

**2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
including all in circles of our love.**

**Sending Out**

**Blessing**

**\* Hymn MV 209**

**Go Make a Diff'ence**

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**R Go make a diff'ence.  
We can make a diff'ence.  
Go make a diff'ence in the world.  
Go make a diff'ence.  
We can make a diff'ence.  
Go make a diff'ence in the world.**

**3 So let your love shine on,  
Let it shine for all to see.  
Go make a diff'ence in the world.  
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.**

**Go make a diff'ence in the world.**

**R   Go make a diff'ence.  
We can make a diff'ence.  
Go make a diff'ence in the world.  
Go make a diff'ence.  
We can make a diff'ence.  
Go make a diff'ence in the world.**