

But over time, the land has changed. As agriculture has expanded, parts of the surrounding forest have been cleared, reducing the land's ability to hold water. The impacts of climate change have made rainfall patterns less predictable, and dry seasons run longer. For much of the year, local creeks are dry, and water must be brought in from elsewhere. It's a constant challenge that affects both daily life and the ability to grow crops.

In response, the Cordillera People's Alliance is working alongside residents to install a solar-powered water pump and storage tank. The system will be maintained locally, ensuring that the community has access to water and ownership of the solution.

With a more stable source of water for both household use and gardens, families can strengthen their livelihoods. Gardens can grow more reliably, daily needs become easier to meet, and pressure on households eases.

When we give through Mission and Service, our gifts are powering long-term support.

Our gifts to Mission and Service help provide stable access to water for Indigenous communities like Am-am and Madalipey. They help sustain life, strengthen food security, and support families as they work toward a more secure future. Make your gift to Mission and Service today.

Call to Worship (*Responsive, based on Acts 2: 43-47*)

We are called to be the church.

We come to learn from the lessons Jesus taught.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

We come in amazement of the wondrous things God is doing in the world.

All who believed were together and had all things in common;

We come with our own unique stories and histories, drawn together in God's love.

They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

We come to learn ways we can care for God's people and creation.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the Temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

We come to share in fellowship as God's people.

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

We come to worship God together in community.

Sung Call to Worship VU 567 (vs 1) "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

**Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our Christ candle and our World candle we consider what commands our attention.

A moment of silent reflection: What do you feel like you have to pay particular attention to, or what takes up a lot of your attention? Do you think this is a valuable use of your "headspace"?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Matthew 13: 31

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Opening Prayer

Holy God, as we gather today as your people, make us attentive to your call in our lives. Help us to notice the things you do among us, the things you stir in our hearts, the opportunities that surround us to share your love with others. Guide us in this time of worship, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn VU 296 "This is God's Wondrous World"

**¹ This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.**

**² This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.**

**3 This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation (Unison)

Holy God, we live in a world full of distractions. We are captivated and consumed with things that do not matter, often at the expense of hearing your call. Forgive us, we pray. Gracious God, hear our silent prayers as we confess those things that separate us from you and from each other.

(silence)

Assurance of Love

When we come before God, seeking forgiveness as our truest and most honest selves, we are met with mercy and grace. Know that you are forgiven from your sin. God still has things to show you and continues to call you by name.

**Theme Conversation *What commands your attention?
What takes up "too much" of your attention?***

Our Scriptures Today

Matthew 13: 31–32

- The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Acts 9: 1–19

- The Conversion of Saul

Reflection

Hymn

VU 282

"Long Before the Night"

- ¹ Long before the night was born from darkness
Long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire
Long before she wrapped her scarlet arms around the hills
there was a love this ancient love was born**
- ² Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside
Long before a wing unfolded to wind
Long before she wrapped her long blue arm around the sea
there was a love this aching love rolls on**

**3 Long before a chain was forged from the hillside
Long before a voice uttered freedom's cry
Long before she wrapped her bleeding arms around a child
there was a love this ancient love was born**

**4 Long before the name of God was spoken
Long before a cross was nailed from a tree
Long before she laid her arm of colours 'cross the sky
there was a love this ancient love was born**

**5 Wakeful are our nights and slumbers our morning
Stubborn is the grass sowing green wounded hills
As we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held
this ancient love this aching love rolls on**

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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Offering Response VU 542 "We Give You But Your Own"
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

God of the universe, creator of galaxies and rivers and trees, author of hope and giver of peace, there is no end to the amazing things you have done. Help us to take it all in. Help us to learn from the stories of others. Help us to notice your presence all around us.

Holy God, you call out to us in many ways.

Make us aware of all the places where you are calling us to serve and to give of ourselves— in areas grand and humble, in forums global and local— and give us a desire to contribute in helpful ways.

Compassionate God, there are many people and situations that weigh on our hearts:

people who are sick in body or mind, and need healing,
people who are persecuted and oppressed by systems of injustice,
cherished children of the living God who feel alone and unworthy of love.
In this time of quiet silence, we lift them up to you Lord...

Today, we have special prayers for:

Joy	Chris O.	Ellen Jane	The Elliott
Liam	Leah	Jennifer	family
Shirley	Serge	Sandy	Bill
Janet	Lainey	Ellen & Art	The Miller
Carol	James	Robin	family-loss of
Kim H.	Brynnley	Grace	Wilma
Fran	Kim P.	Haley	

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father....

Closing Hymn VU 220 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

**¹ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear:
brothers and sisters draw near, joining in glad adoration.**

**² Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen
how all you needed has been met by God's gracious ordaining?**

**³ Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do, who out of love will befriend us.**

**⁴ Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again: gladly with praise we adore him.**

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Living our Faith this Week

Last week we talked about being God's hopeful people, this week I want us to considering being God's "noticing people". Take time to 'notice' God's work around you and in you. If you get a moment, send me an email telling me what you experienced: pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca

Commissioning and Benediction

Go in peace, and may the peace of God, which shines brightly and vanquishes our darkness, always be with you. Go, knowing that God is your rock and your refuge. You are not alone. God is always with you. AMEN.

Sung Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
Know God 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 us in love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen**
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