



"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"
(Heb.11:1)

ALBERNI VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

August 1, 2010

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

★All who are able, please stand

Bold type: congregation invited to join in

Prelude 10:15 am

Welcome, especially visitors ... Announcements

*Happy Birthday to you, happy anniversary to you
May God bless you and keep you the coming year through.*

CENTERING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

*Let us prepare ourselves in this moment to meet God in this place, in quiet meditation or by lighting
a prayer candle as we sing our centering hymn:*

CENTERING HYMN: Voices United #582 There's a Spirit in the Air

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Come, let us make a joyful noise to the Lord.

We have come to praise God with gladness, in prayer and song.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the presence of God in our midst.

We have come in faith and thanksgiving to worship our God.

Let us remember that God made us and to him we belong.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

★CALLING HYMN: VU #820 Make a Joyful Noise.

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Eternal God,

Your image lies in the hearts of all people.

**We live among people whose language is sometimes different from ours, whose
faiths are often foreign to us, and whose ways we often have difficulty
understanding.**

**Help us to remember that you embrace all people with your love, that all religion is a
response to you, and that all yearnings of other hearts are much like our own, and
are known to you.**

**Help us to recognize you in words of truth, in things of beauty, and in actions of love
about us.**

**Thank you for your presence with us here this morning, and at all times and places.
Amen.**

★OPENING HYMN: VU #238 O Lord, My God, How Great Thou Art.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15: 1-6 *Abraham has faith in God.*

PSALM: 33:10-22 Our responsibility. (*Everyday Psalms by J. Taylor*)

We plunder creation to satisfy short-term needs.

**In strip-mined forests, countless species face extinction; air and water are burdened
with wastes; the earth has been hurt beyond healing.**

If only we could hear the wisdom of the Lord.

Only God can plan beyond the present, beyond our children, beyond our children's children, into a seamless tapestry that weaves all life together.

How exciting to perceive that pattern! How challenging to be chosen by God to help preserve an island planet.

God sees all that we do – each one of us. No place, no person, no nation can escape God's oversight.

God lives wherever life flowers, and dies wherever greed steals from our common future.

God knows what lurks in every heart, and weighs each one of us by our works.

We can't win approval with wealth; before God, popularity has no power.

Starships can't carry us from the consequences of our actions.

Wherever we go, our attitudes go with us.

But a smile shines on those who struggle to live in God's way, and on those who trust God to show them the way.

Even in wasteland without values, they will not work in vain; God will sustain them.

We rest our hope in God. We celebrate God's influence in our lives – living in us, living through us, offering life to all. We put our trust in God.

HYMN: VU #625 I Feel the Winds of God Today

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 *Strangers and foreigners need faith.*

SERMON: Foreigners, Refugees and Strangers.

★HYMN: VU #580 Faith of Our Fathers

PRAYER INTROIT

HYMN: VU #508 Just As I Am

PASTORAL CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father ...

Beside the bed a child, hands folded, begins to pray...

Who art in heaven...

Followed by a widow in the night.

Hallowed be thy name...

Far away a congregation recites the familiar words...

Thy kingdom come...

While others stand beside a grave.

Thy will be done...

Words echoing around the world,

On earth as it is in heaven...

To our heavenly Father,

Give us this day our daily bread...

Prayers for nourishment...

And forgive us our trespasses...

Prayers for mercy...

As we forgive those who trespass against us...

Prayers for understanding...

And lead us not into temptation...

Prayers for strength...
 But deliver us from evil...
Prayers for freedom...
 For thine is the kingdom...
Prayers of love...
 The power and the glory...
Prayers of thanksgiving.
 For ever and ever.
And always.
 Amen.
Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION: M & S supports youth.

OFFERING

INVITATION:

★RESPONSE HYMN: VU #218 We Praise You, O God (verse 1 only)
 ★PRAYER: **Generous God, we return a portion of your bounty which we received from you, to do your work. Accept and bless these gifts. Use all that we are and have given to serve justice, and transform our world, your creation. Amen.**

★HYMN: VU #703 In the Bulb There is a Flower

★BLESSING:

★HYMN: VU #417 God, As We Rise to Leave

★GIFT OF PEACE

Greeting: May the peace of God be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

(Some parts taken from "Gatherings" and "Prayers to Share". Used with permission.)

Guest Preacher: Denny Hackett

Church Accompanist: Ellen Vander Putten

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ANNOUNCEMENTS for August 1, 2010

	August 1	August 8	August 15
Greeters/ Ushers	Steve & Judy Vatamaniuck	Lois & Dennis Andow	Julie Zaplotinsky & Dell Weiller

PRAYER CYCLE REMEMBRANCES

Alberni Valley Ministerial: Arrowsmith Baptist Church

Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery: Youth in the Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped to set up and work the AVUC Garage Sale. It was a great success! THANK YOU to everyone who donated items to the sale, you are greatly appreciated. And, THANK YOU to all of you who shopped.

Over \$1400 was raised!!

Child-minding and Children's Worship will begin again

Rally Sunday, September 19, 2010

For The Bread of Life:

This summer, we are collecting rice, pasta, sauces and canned soups. Please put donations in the Blue Basket in the Narthex on Sundays. Thank you!

Message from the Treasurer

Summer is in full swing and peoples' activities look to being outside the Valley for periods of time. If you plan on attending and giving to the church on a regular basis during the summer, I thank you. For those of you who are not going to attend on a regular basis during the summer but would like to contribute regularly please consider enrolling in the United Church PAR program. Please contact Carol Korven at (250) 723-5265 for further information and enrolment into this program.

Knox United Church is hosting a Summer Music Program.

Wednesdays at 7pm-8:30pm. Dates are August 4, 11. Each evening is a stand alone event. See the poster on the bulletin board in the hall for more information.