

**January 3, 2021
A Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches
Judi Ritcey, LLWL – Presiding
Judi Ritcey – PowerPoint – Summerland United**



**MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGANTS**

**2021 -**This time of the year offers us a brand, new start.  The turn of the calendar is the perfect time to reflect on how you grew the previous year, and plan your goals for the next. 2021, a year of hope.

Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing.”
***Sarah Ban Breathnach***

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”***Ralph Waldo Emerson***

Jesus has come into our hearts. Rejoice and be glad.

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**GATHERING TIME                     9:45AM**

**INTRODUCTION & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

 **BELL RINGING**

**WORDS OF WELCOME -   Wanda Colvin –**Westbank United

*A warm welcome to our friends from Summerland and Westbank United Churches who are with us today and to all those joining us from other locations. If there are any visitors today from other congregations or other places, we welcome you and thank you for joining us this morning. If you are comfortable, please unmute yourself and tell us where or what congregation you are from.  Please remember to re-mute yourself.*

**MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION**

**LIGHTING OUR CANDLES**

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The beginning of each day, the beginning of each week, and the beginning of each year are opportunities to start anew. Worshipping at the beginning of this week gives us an opportunity to open ourselves anew for God’s blessings and challenges; so let us pray.

**God, mysterious and encouraging, today we have gathered to remember anew**

**the freedom we have in your presence.**

**We have revelled in your love and filled up on your peace,**

**and you have unlocked our hearts and opened them to receive your will for us.**

**As we gather here this morning and listen, pray, and sing praises to you,**

**may your mystery sustain us for your mission in the world**

**and our part in it. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

The circle of the year has turned again.

**Endings and beginnings. Birth and death. Changes and transitions.**

The circle of the year has turned again.

**But in all of the change, there is one sure thing - God is present.**

God is present. **We are not alone**.

We are not alone. **Thanks be to God!**

**WE SING TOGETHER                VU 87 - I Am The Light of the World**

**SCRIPTURE READING             John 1: 1-18 – Carol Bubb,**Summerland United
**The Inclusive Bible**

**REFLECTION                                            Judi**

**WE SING TOGETHER                VU 82 – A Light Is Gleaming**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE                John Bubb**, Summerland United

**THE LORD’S PRAYER              An Adaptation – Jim Cotter**

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

At the start of a new year, we present our first offerings, our first gifts to God’s church.

Let us give joyfully unto the Lord!

**WE SING TOGETHER – All the Ends of the Earth – Father Bob Dufford, Saint Louis Jesuits**

**BLESSING**Let us go forth, into this new year, with deep trust in God’s sending, that we may follow God’s heart and not our own.  Let us go forth bearing the name of Christ, that we may become as Christ to those we meet. Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit, that we may turn from fear, embracing commitment in love.  Amen

**BREAK OUT ROOMS**

Worship with Summerland and Westbank United Churches

January 3, 2021 09:45 AM Vancouver

\_\_**Join Zoom Meeting**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83971543383>
**Meeting ID: 839 7154 3383
Passcode: 487991**

Dial by your location
        +1 778 907 2071 Canada
Meeting ID: 839 7154 3383

**Passcode: 487991**

**Summerland United Church website also provides access to our weekly Zoom church service.**

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**SCRIPTURE**

John 1: 1-18 – The Inclusive Bible *The Word was in the world, but the world did not know him.*

1 In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God. 2 The Word was present to God from the beginning. 3 Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light – 5 a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

6 Then came one named John, send as an envoy from God, 7 who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. 8 He himself wasn’t the Light; he only came to testify about the Light – the true Light that illumines all humankind. 9 The Word was coming into the world – 10 was in the world – and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn’t recognize it. 11 Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word’s own people didn’t accept it. 12 Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God – 13 children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will – but born of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word’s glory – the favor and position a parent gives an only child – filled with grace, filled with truth.

15 John testified by proclaiming, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, “The One who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.’”

16 Of this One’s fullness we’ve all had a share – gift on top of gift.

17 For while the Law was given through Moses, the Gift – and the Truth – came through Jesus Christ.

**Notices:**

Pastoral Care is provided by Paul James. You can reach Paul by email:  p.w.james58@gmail.com or by texting him at (250-488-4856

Paul is there for you to reach out to. Sometimes we just need someone to listen and hear us.