

SUMMERLAND UNITED CHURCH
celebrating faith
seeking justice and
serving others in a loving community

Rev. Paul James - Presiding
Sunday, September 5th, 2021 - 10 a.m.



PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey – Summerland United
Words of Welcome: Sharon O’Shaughnessey
Scripture Reading: Marilyn Hanson

GATHERING TIME
INTRODUCTION
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

9:45AM
Rev. Paul James
Rev. Paul James

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BELL RINGING
WORDS OF WELCOME

Sharon O'Shaughnessy

A warm welcome to members of Summerland United Church who are with us today and to all those joining us from other locations or congregations. 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 THE CANDLE

Rev. Paul James

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 415 – God We Praise You for the Morning

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Paul James

One: Return, beloved of God, to the fold.

God welcomes you to this hour of worship.

All: God calls us by name and awaits our coming.

God summons us out of hiding.

One: God is like a shepherd, caring his flock.

God is like a gardener, carefully tending her vines.

All: Surely God has provided richly for us.

Our lives are sustained by God's good gifts.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Paul James

Compassionate God, whose riches have been poured out among us in unrecognized abundance, help us today to re-examine our stewardship over the things and relationships you have entrusted to us. Confront our greed, lest it destroy us and rob our brothers and sisters of the good you intend for them. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING - Mark 7: 24-37

Marilyn Hanson

The Syrophoenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.^[a] He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir,^[b] even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus^[c] ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

These words come from the scriptures of our traditions. May we find wisdom for our daily living. Amen

WE SING TOGETHER

REFLECTION – Barking Dogs

WE SING TOGETHER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Through our offerings of time, talents and money we reach out to help people.

MV 78 – God Weeps

Rev. Paul James

VU 642 – Be Thou My Vision

Rev. Paul James

Traditional

Rev. Paul James

In Unison

Not because they are “worthy” but because they are your children, in need of what we can share. Thank you for accepting our gifts, inadequate as they may be, and granting us the joy of giving. Amen

WE SING TOGETHER

MV 44 – Shadow and Substance

BLESSING

Rev. Paul James

CHAT ROOMS

SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

The people of Haiti need emergency shelter, clean water, and food.



Buildings damaged by the earthquake in Haiti, August 2021.
Credit: Tearfund Canada, 2021. All rights reserved, permission required for further use.

On the morning of Saturday, August 14, Haiti was struck by a severe earthquake. Precious lives have been lost. Many homes and community buildings have been destroyed. Hospitals have also been damaged, and acutely injured and traumatized people are struggling to find help.

The earthquake follows sharply on the heels of other disasters, including a massive earthquake in 2010 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. To make the situation even worse, Tropical Storm Grace hit Haiti on August 16.

The impact of the most recent earthquake is all the more devastating because of political instability, a severe economic downturn, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of the current political crisis, Haitian citizens are working to create an agreement to facilitate a successful interim government to build a different future for their country.

The United Church of Canada is in contact with Mission & Service partners in Haiti to find out how we can support their communities. Already, we know that the people of Haiti need

emergency shelter, clean water, and food. The church has made it possible for members to designate donations to help Haiti when they make a gift through a special emergency fund. Please hold the people of Haiti in prayer.