**Summerland United Church Newsletter Oct 11/20**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

Today we welcome Rev. Donald Schmidt as our new virtual minister.  Rev. Schmidt has written a lead in to provide better insight to our scripture reading today. There are members from Penticton United joining us and we wish to welcome them too.

Sometimes things are not what they seem. At a glance, this story appears to be a rather simple story of some people being healed, and one of them giving thanks. But of course, as so often happens with the Bible a great deal hovers just out of view. Jesus frequently used opportunities to include those who were excluded in normal society, and in that lies a lesson for all of us.

            The key thing here is not that some were healed, or that some did not give thanks, but rather that the one who did take time to offer thanks was a Samaritan.

            Jews and Samaritans didn’t really like each other, because each thought the other group was just a little too different. There wasn’t really anything they could put their finger on, but over the years they had come to mistrust one another, and to build walls between them. Luke loves any opportunity, in telling us the story of Jesus, to point out that Jesus broke down barriers of judgment, and this is no exception. That a Samaritan – one of *“those”* people – would come back and give thanks is shocking to the people who would have first heard this story, and would have challenged them to realize that perhaps Samaritans weren’t all that “bad” after all. It’s all about perceptions.

            Think about those groups of people you sometimes want to put down, or consider different, or unworthy, or less than yourself. Think long and hard: what is that really based on?

What might this story tell us about how to view other people? How can you help break down barriers that keep us apart? Who do you need to meet and listen to, so that you might enrich your understanding of the world?

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**A Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches**

**October 11, 2020**

**Rev. Donald Schmidt - Presiding**

**Power Point:  Judi Ritcey, LLWL – Summerland United**



**GATHERING TIME**9:45 AM

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BELL RINGING**10 AM

**WORDS OF WELCOME - Joan Dodge**– Westbank United Church

*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 joining us today from other congregations or other places, we would love to know your names. The host will now unmute everyone, and if you are comfortable, we invite visitors to introduce themselves.*

**MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION**

*Friends, we gather apart but together. I invite you now to switch to gallery view or scroll through your screen to witness the children of God gathered with us today, and to know that we are not alone.*

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**based on Psalm 65; from The Whole People of God

Come, gather together, people of God.

**We come to sing and shout God’s praise.**

The gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy!

**The river of God is full of water.**

The pastures of the wilderness overflow with richness.

**The hills and the valleys are full of God’s blessing.**

Together they shout and sing for joy.

**Together *we* shout and sing for joy!**

We will not forget our Creator God and the earth that nourishes us.

**We will remember and give thanks.**

Come, friends, and let us worship God!

**WE SING TOGETHER**    And On this Path - MV 8

**OPENING PRAYER***from*The Whole People of God

Loving God, creator of all things, we come to you this morning with thankful hearts for all your gifts to us and to your people everywhere. We think about the amazing beauty of the world you have made and this powerful yet fragile land we call our home. As we worship together, remind us of the sacredness of all creation and of our responsibility to respect the ways of the earth and the connections between all things. Amen.

**WE SING TOGETHER**                Come, You Thankful People, Come (VU 516)

**SCRIPTURE READING**                         Luke 17:11–19 *(The Inclusive Bible)*
                                                            Sharon O’Shaughnessy – Summerland United

**REFLECTION**

**WE SING TOGETHER:**We Plough the Fields (VU 520)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**Earth Maker – **Jim Cotter** from “Prayers at Night

**OFFERING:**
**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**from The Whole People of God

Loving God, we offer you our gifts and ourselves, to bring together the circle of life – the material and the spiritual, worship and work. Help us to use all our gifts wisely, that they may bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

**Invitation***(from*Seasons of the Spirit)

Open hearts and spirits to the Holy One who invites us to this meal.

**Taste the earth-borne gifts that bare the communion of Christ’s presence.**

Grains drawn from soil, milled and mixed, kneaded and baked, form the loaf of our common life.

**Grapes plucked and pressed, strained and aged, fill the cup of our common hope.**

All these, all of us, fearfully and wonderfully made by God:

**All these, all of us, gathered to celebrate the mystery of presence in this communion and in all of life.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

You have given yourself to us, O God,

**and now we give ourselves to others.**

Your love has made us a new people,

**and as a people of love we will serve you with joy. Amen.**

**WE SING TOGETHER:**For the Fruit of All Creation (VU 227)

**BLESSING**

**BREAK INTO CHAT ROOMS**



**Luke 17: 11-19 – The Inclusive Bible**

11On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. 12As Jesus was entering a village, ten people with leprosy met him. Keeping their distance, 13they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, rabbi, have pity on us!”

14When Jesus saw them he responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

As they were going, they were healed. 15One of them realizing what had happened, came back praising God in a loud voice. 16then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. The individual was a Samaritan.

17Jesus replied, “Weren’t all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? 18Was there no one to return and give thanks except this foreigner?” 19The Jesus said to the Samaritan, “Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you.”

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Join in for and enlightening Bible Study,

The Rev. Donald Smith is leading a book study on Revelation from Thursday, October 15th to Thursday November 26th., 2020 - 7 weeks duration.  **It will be a zoom Bible Study and will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

Though this Bible Study is part of Summerland and Westbank's contract with Donald, please feel free to invite family or friends who might be interested in learning more about The Book of Revelations.

Copies of the study guide have been placed in the church offices. It is not necessary to purchase the Study Guide, but it would be very helpful to have it for the Bible Study Sessions. The cost for the book  is $15.00.

If you are interested in being part of this Bible Study please purchase your book there, or let the office know that you do want to register. All proceeds from the sale of Donald's book are being donated to an El Salvador Educational Fund which provides higher level schooling, to a maximum of three years, for students who otherwise would not be able to continue on with their education.

A **recurring Zoom meeting** will be sent out to those who register.  Please provide the office with the following information so that you will

be included in the Zoom invitation.

**Name:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Contact Phone Number:**

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**RECAP OF THE BOOK**

Revelation is a powerful book that was written a long time ago to express a powerful message. Unfortunately, so many people have played with it and interpreted it and have found in it only the things they wanted to find, it’s difficult to “hear” the original intent through all the interpretation.

Yet, when we set aside the nonsense and speculation, we find a story of God’s presence with a fractured and frightened community, with a church that had no idea what the future might hold, and with a people who wondered if it was time to give up and abandon what they believed – all of which makes Revelation a perfect book to study in our own time and place, because so many church communities today and so many of the people who inhabit them are all of those things: fractured and frightened, uncertain of what the future might hold, wondering if we should just give up.

Revelation for Progressive Christians is a seven-session study guide that invites readers to explore Revelation as fun, hope-filled book that contains a lot of fanciful imagery and symbolic references, to be sure, but that, as its core, offers words of assurance and hope to the church and its people today.