

West Point Grey United Church

4595 West 8th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2A4
Sunday, August 6, 1995

Minister: Cheryl Black

Christian Development Worker: Bruce McAndless-Davis

Director of Music: Charles Willett

Support Staff: Janis Terrien, Secretary

Weekend Custodian: Geoffrey Jones

Office: Mon-Fri. 8a.m.-3:30p.m. 224-4388

Welcome to our community of faith! Visitors are invited to sign the Guest Book in the entrance and (if you wish) to use a Visitor's Envelope found in the pew. We extend a special welcome to members of West Point Grey Presbyterian Church who will be worshipping with us throughout August. We give thanks for their hospitality to us in July.

Today our worship will be conducted by the Rev. Jack Shaver, a long time member of our congregation. Next Sunday, worship will be conducted by the Rev. Art Griffin. We look forward to the arrival of our new minister, the Rev. Cheryl Black, who will be with us starting this week and begin conducting worship on August 20.

Everyone is invited to remain after worship for a social hour in the Church Hall.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Bruce McAndless-Davis

Call to Worship:

One: People of God, why have we left our homes on this sunny (summer) morning?

All: We have come to worship God.

One: Followers of Jesus, why have we gathered now in this building as a community?

All: We have come to worship God.

One: Bearers of the Spirit of God, why do we sing and pray and share God's word together?

All: We have come to worship God. May our worship give us life and may our life lead us to serve others.

Opening Prayer

* Hymn of Praise: "All people that on earth do dwell" **HB #12**

* = Stand

HB = Hymn Book (Red)

SGP = Songs for Gospel People (Green)

SB = Service Book

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (*sung together*)

SGP #12

GOING FORTH

* Hymn: "Thou whose almighty word"

HB #235

* Benediction

Postlude

Thank you to those taking part in the service this morning.

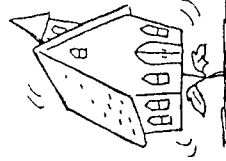
Greeters this morning are Phyllis Bernez, Margaret Brown, and Kathleen and Norman Henderson.

Our Coffee Hour Host is Hellen Cove.

Notice to the members of West Point Grey Presbyterian congregation who are worshipping with us in August. Marlys Middleditch, Clerk of Session, can be reached at 733-5162 if there is any need for pastoral care. She will contact appropriate clergy as required.

Please check the Notice Board in the Narthex. A Sign-Up sheet for those who wish to place flowers in the sanctuary has been posted.

The sign up sheets for Greeters and Coffee Hour hosts have been posted on the Bulletin Boards in the Church Hall.



We are creating a **New Children's Programme Room** for our exciting new programme. Could you help us set it up? We need to sort through supplies, clean, paint, etc. If you can help even for a few hours, please call Bruce at 224-4388.

Weekend Getaway Sept. 15-17

Come away to relax, have fun and make new connections. Register **NOW**. Registration forms available on your way out or from the office. 224-4388.

We are **COLLECTING NOW** for the Fall Thrift Fair. Tell your neighbours too! Remember we want everything from A to Z!! The Thrift Fair will be held Saturday, September 23.

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There is no way that I can be faced with a lesson from AMOS as one of the lectionary readings without taking notice,

Amos probably did his preaching between 760+750 BC all the Hebrew scriptures we are familiar with took their final form much later than this

.... Ben Sira etc etc - Abraham Sarah Jacob Joseph
Elijah Elisha
Samuel David.

This Remarkable literature

Reveals Character of God Israel came to know and write about.

didn't receive the form in which we know it until 586
- versions and additions later. 200 years

There were lots of Gods among Israel's contemporaries
~~over these years~~

Whipped Jews
Took sides in battles
For a price insured fertility + economic security
Created this other national state

Israel's God unique

steadfast - instead of fickle
purposeful rather than vengeful
Sovereign rather than subject
to manipulation,
Morality. Moral behavior of
people + nations

→ Ethical Monotheism - and all that

Now: very possible AMOS proven in all this! Found records
some human - wheels, 2 the Bible
" " " writing. possibly
" " discovered ZERO -
some humans - warlike with life + history -
discovered of Ethical Monotheism!

AMOS - could be that first - what records we have
- that's all we go on

At a time of soaring prosperity & National ascending
steady growth in its gross national product.

Dear Voice Breeds in,

How this youth that tramples on the needy
and bring to ruin the ~~body~~ ^{poor} of the land
who can't wait to jack up food prices
and use false measures,

Shall not the land tremble on this account?

Down the centuries this insight into God's
character had a checkered history,
Psalm 52 tells that high-minded ethical
monothesis short.

"Look how God is punishing my enemies
and showing me favour because I
am so faithful"

More centuries & how Wesley
~~deepened~~ the understanding of the New Testament
condition and its core
deepened understanding of God's relationship
to it all

Colossian Reading

The first Christians did their remembering
recording and writing because they came
to have a certain view of the meaning of
the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

By the time of the writing of this epistle their understanding
of the significance of Christ's life had reached its full
expression - found noble eloquent language for
stating it.

Deepened insight into God's character

While this new insight does not cancel the seriousness
of transgressing on the part of a profounder
understanding of God's work than that
described as reward the righteous
"punish the wicked,"

"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself ALL THINGS, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

How different! regarding righteous punishing wicked

What an enormous claim!

God was pleased to reconcile all things making peace!

all alienated peoples
all wronged people
all misbehaving people
violated people

the violated creation

demonic principalities & powers

— funny old fashioned word for reconciliation

think of today's rampant ethnic hatred

Could you believe it? Today

Croatia - Bosnia - Herzegovina

Israel & Palestine

Rwanda

Serbia

— with the running down of the industrial revolution the growing excluded underclass everywhere!

That's the function of the People of God.

Create believers in that

the Holy Almighty God of the Universe is

about Reconciling all things: nothing else.

While we are at - let's pick up the further insight expressed in Colossians high Christology,

Making peace -- Through the Blood of Christ's cross

you who were once estranged & hostile. — he has reconciled in his fleshly body through death.

Centre of the Reconciling Activity FLESH & BLOOD

think about some genuine reconciliation you have known
(not peace when there was no peace
but reconciliation that was of some consequence

— didn't it involve flesh & blood?

Flesh undergoes something - blood spilt.

Northern Ireland: since the latest time of Troubles began
in 1969 - engulfed in extended, implacable
religious division, far division hatred,
requiring for reconciliation.

Flesh & Blood

Israel & Palestine: Peace makers there - endure the
bitter campaign of the foes of peace
Flesh & Blood.

That is what it is to be in
Participate in God's reconciling work.

Do you suppose our worship together can
give us a glimpse of that?

Told for

To them God chose to make known how
great among the gentiles are the riches of the
glory of this mystery - which is Christ in
you the hope of glory.

Should we catch a glimpse of God
reconciling everything we might also
understand why the early Church remembered
and recorded that glimpse of Mary & Martha

How it just might be more important
to talk theology than to get a meal,