

Service of Holy Communion

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12th, 2025



INTRODUCTION

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another, trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts.

The congregation sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P. God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen**

Congregation stands

GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

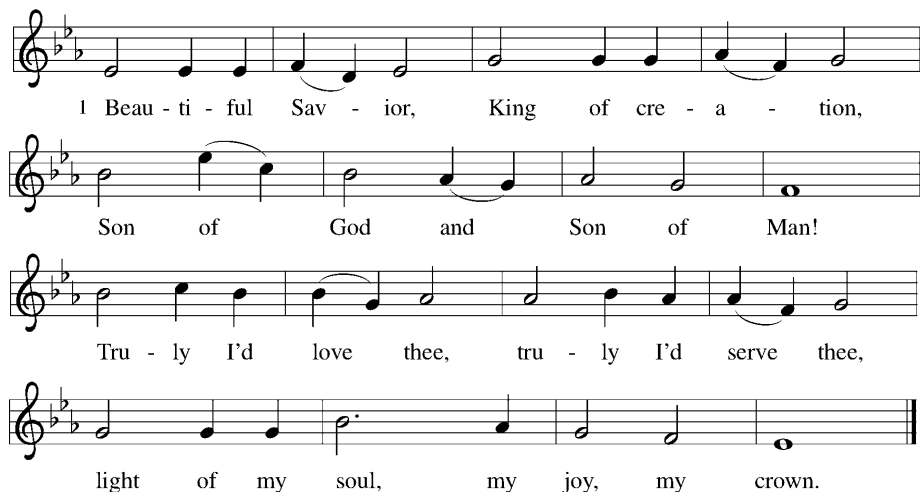
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



I Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight

and honored and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29 (*read responsively*)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests
bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

P. The holy gospel according to Luke. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON

The Power of God

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

A. You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, the land, and the creatures it nourishes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. We pray especially for...those we now say aloud...and those we hold in our hearts... Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P. We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ’s peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

By the Water and the Spirit

Regi Stone, Randy Cox

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give via Venmo ↓



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Scan to give via Tithely ↓



Congregation stands

OFFERING SONG

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation sits or kneels.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

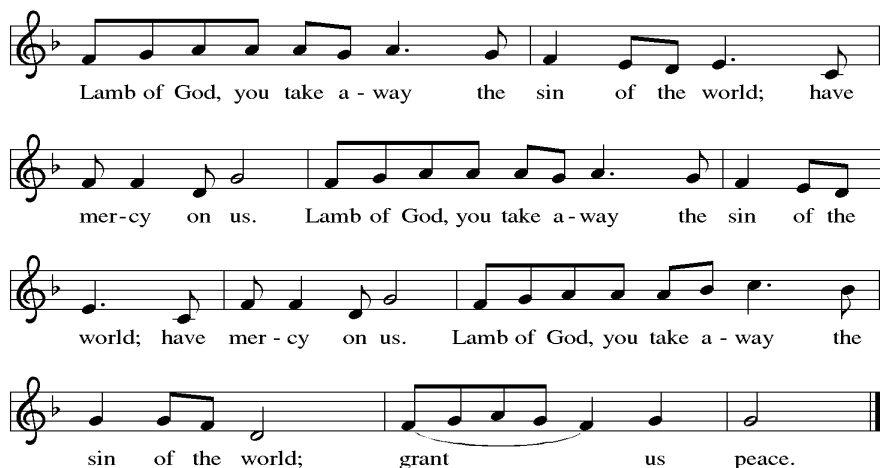
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

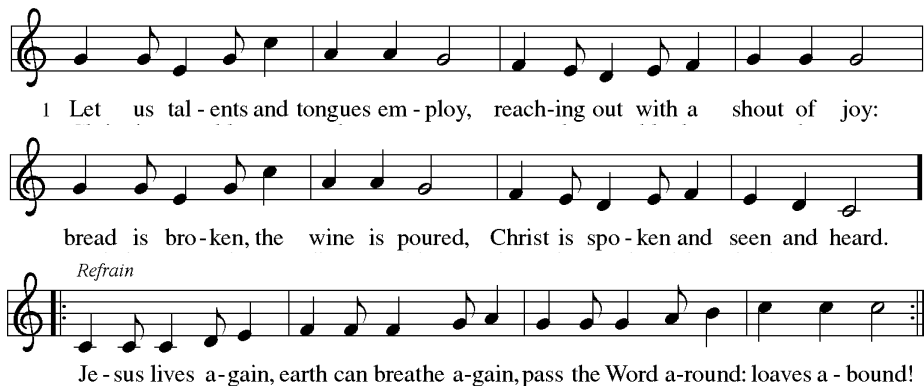
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard.
Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River *(printed in back of bulletin)*

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Live in hope. **C. Thanks be to God.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020048. Permission to reprint/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-731656. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Announcements for January 12th, 2025

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!

If today is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.

Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.

Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.

~~~~~  
***Thank you, Heeren Family, for this morning's refreshments***  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
***A HUGE, heartfelt thank you to the congregation for our staff Christmas gifts! We all feel so blessed by our shared ministry here and we are thankful for the love, support, and encouragement this time of year and always.***

***May God bless all of you! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!***

***With love, June, Cathy, and Pastor Peggy***  
~~~~~

Volunteers for today's Worship

Lay Asst.	Debbie Lennon
Comm. Asst.	<i>Jump in during worship!!</i>
Ushers	Diane Rossi
Tech	Mark Rossi
Tellers	<i>Jump in after worship!!</i>

Volunteers for next Sunday, January 19th

Lay Asst.	Dawn McCormick
Comm. Asst.	<i>Jump in during worship!!</i>
Ushers	<i>Jump in before worship!!</i>
Tech	<i>Jump in during worship!!</i>
Tellers	<i>Jump in after worship!!</i>

***** Join us for refreshments after worship*****

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, January 12: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am
Choir Practice following worship
Rainbow Café Sussex, 2-4pm
Confirmation Class, 6-7:30pm

Monday, January 13: Pastor's Comm. Office Hours, Daily Bean, 10am-12pm

Wednesday, January 15: Adult Ed, [Zoom](#), 10am

Saturday, January 18: Sisters in Prayer, [Zoom](#), 8:30-9:30am

Sunday, January 19: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am
Choir Practice following worship

Annual Congregational Meeting: Our annual meeting is Sunday, January 26th following worship with a makeup weather date of February 2nd. Please plan to attend to celebrate the 2024 year, hear updates about the church, vote on new members for church council, and approve the 2025 spending plan. **A potluck luncheon will follow, please bring a dish to pass.**

International Women's Day Lenten Retreat: We are hosting our first ever Woman's Retreat at HCLC on Saturday March 8th from 9 am- 3 pm. All women are invited to come explore a Lenten journey this winter which includes a keynote speaker, worship, music, workshops and meditation. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is a recommended donation of \$10 for building use. **Please RSVP to the office (office@hc-lutheranchurch.org) by Sunday, February 9th.** Talk with Kathy Heeren for more information.

Adult Education Resumes: Adult Ed resumed on Wednesday, January 8th at 10am on Zoom. Anyone is welcome to join. We will be reading *Grounded: Finding God in the World-A Spiritual Revolution* by Diana Butler Bass. Please contact Pam Kucks for more information.

Sisters in Prayer Resumes: Sisters in Prayer resumed on Saturday, January 11th at 8:30am on Zoom. All women of the church are invited to join. We will be reading *Breath as Prayer: Calm Your Anxiety, Focus Your Mind, and Renew Your Soul* by Jennifer Tucker. Please contact Pam Kucks for more information.

Calendar Fundraiser: Happy New Year! Get your calendar today! **Our very own Frank Urbaniak created a beautiful calendar using his own photography.** Pam has included scripture verses to meditate on monthly as well. **Calendars are \$20 and the entire cost will go to the church.** Note “calendar” with your payment.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is low on canned chili, canned stew, and canned pasta. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

I've Got Peace like a River

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,
3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,

The first system of the sheet music features a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with three lines of lyrics. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul;
I've got joy like a foun-tain in my soul;
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows a melodic line with a final note held over. The bass staff has a corresponding accompaniment with a final chord.

I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,
I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,

The third system repeats the first system's melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has the vocal melody with three lines of lyrics. The bass staff has the harmonic accompaniment.

I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul.
I've got joy like a foun-tain in my soul.
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The treble staff shows the final melodic line with a double bar line. The bass staff has the final accompaniment with a double bar line.

Text: traditional

Music: PEACE LIKE A RIVER, African American spiritual



Holy Counselor
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Office (973) 827-5251
www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT

*As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow
President Nancy Knecht
Vice President Steve Baumann
Treasurer Colleen Drache
Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick
Financial Secretary John Heeren
Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince
Nurture Coordinator Margaret Kranz
Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi
Youth Representative Kevin Drache

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Frank Urbaniak
Pam Kucks
Matt Moller
Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

