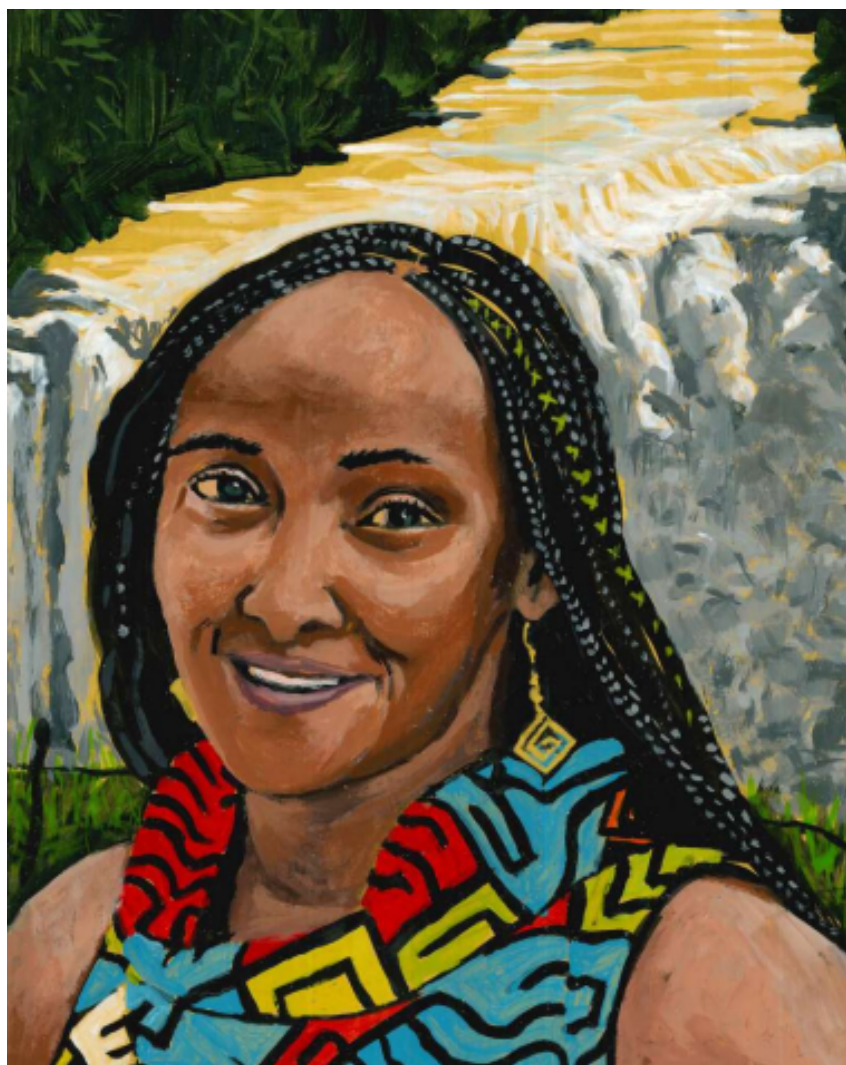


**The AbbeyChurch / September 10, 2023**  
**The Season of Creation II**



*Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti - Painting by Bob Mash (see page 14)*

# Welcome to the AbbeyChurch

No matter who you are or what you are carrying today, know you are beloved and so very welcome here!

At the AbbeyChurch, we tell stories of faith, encourage hope, share meals, care for each other and for God's creation – and strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

We're at different places in our faith journey - but we share a guiding sacred Story as found in scripture (The Bible) and summarized in our Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God - with our questions and doubts, our disillusionment with our institutions and our concern for our world.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressive, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, under-housed, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together and renews our hope as we gather each week at Jesus' table of radical welcome.



*Beloved companions on the Way  
Come as you are offering the dance of our lives  
In the struggle of faith with hearts alive in love  
with holy Mystery*

**[admin@abbeychurch.ca](mailto:admin@abbeychurch.ca)**

**[www.abbeychurch.ca](http://www.abbeychurch.ca)**

778 557 4166 Community Cell.

We would love to connect! Call, Text, Email.

# We Gather

## Opening Loop

### Tolling of the Bells & Announcements

Introduction of Anna and Skye, Childrens' leaders.

## Land Acknowledgment

As we gather,

**we acknowledge with gratitude and respect the ɫəkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional land we worship and the Songhees, Esquimalt peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. As a community, we commit to an ongoing journey of decolonization, deep listening and humility as we seek to walk in right-relationship.**

Bell x 3

We gather in the name of God: Source of All Being,  
Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and of all creatures!

## Opening Words with Refrain

Unison  
♩ = 104

The musical score is written for a unison voice part in 3/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a tempo of 104. The first line of music contains the lyrics: "I praise you, O God, with all of my heart. With all the earth I will". Above the staff, the chords Dm, G/D, Dm7, G/D, and Bb are indicated. The second line of music contains the lyrics: "sing your prais-es. I prais-es.". Above the staff, the chords C, Bb, C, Bb, C, and Dm are indicated. The second line of music is divided into two sections: "Repeats" and "Last time". The "Repeats" section is marked with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The "Last time" section is marked with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The score ends with a fermata over the final note.

I praise you, O God, with all of my heart. With all the earth I will  
sing your prais-es. I prais-es.

More Voices / David Robertson / High River United Church

Divine Voice – **You sing and the universe comes into being.**  
Divine Breath – **You breathe and all things spring to life**  
Divine Word – **You call and creation is sustained**  
Divine Flesh – **you are born among us**  
Divine Spirit - **you fill all that has been formed**  
Divine Life – **you are the pulse of all that is**  
*Sung Refrain... “I praise you O God...”*

In amazement and awe, wonder and celebration we marvel at this mystery. In you, all things live and move and have being. In all things, you live and move and express your Divine artistry. And so, we join with creation in the eternal song of worship and wonder.

*Sung Refrain... “I praise you O God...”*

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing  
& the AbbeyKids set the altar with a mighty river*

### **Opening Song: I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

I sing the mighty pow’r of God, that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.  
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,  
Who formed the creatures through the Word,  
and then pronounced them good!

Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There’s not a plant or flow’r below,  
but makes Thy glories known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from Thy throne;

While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;  
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

Isaac Watts / ELLACOMBE / Public domain

**Poem:** selected by poet-in-residence **Rebecca Yeo**

# We Proclaim

## **A Reading from the Book of Exodus (3:1-15)**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Lament "Psalm": In Labour All Creation Groans**

In labour all creation groans till fear and hatred cease,  
Till human hearts come to believe: In Christ alone is peace.

*Chorus:* Be our Peace (X3) Christ our Peace.

In labour all creation groans till war and violence cease,  
Till swords are beaten into plows and Christ will be our peace.

*Chorus*

In labour all creation groans till prejudice shall cease,  
Till every race and tribe and tongue in Christ will live in peace.

*Chorus*

In labour all creation groans till rape and murder cease,  
Till women walk by night unharmed and Christ is this world's  
peace. *Chorus*

In labour all creation groans till false divisions cease,  
Till enemies are reconciled in Christ who is our peace. *Chorus*  
from *Lamentations* by Bifrost Arts Music, 2016.

### **A Reading from the Prophet Amos (5:8-15)**

God who made the Pleiades and Orion,  
    who turns midnight into dawn  
    and darkens day into night,  
who calls for the waters of the sea  
    and pours them out over the face of the land—  
    the Lord is his name.

With a blinding flash the Lord destroys the stronghold  
    and brings the fortified city to ruin.

There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court  
    and detest the one who tells the truth.

You levy a straw tax on the poor  
    and impose a tax on their grain.

Therefore, though you have built stone mansions,  
    you will not live in them;

though you have planted lush vineyards,  
    you will not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your offences  
    and how great are your sins.

There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes  
    and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times,  
    for the times are evil.

Seek good, not evil, that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you,  
    just as you say the Lord is.

Hate evil, love good;  
    maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy  
    on the remnant of Joseph.

The word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel.*

## **Gospel Acclamation: All Creatures of our God and King**

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O burning sun with golden beam.  
And silver moon with softer gleam.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Based on words by St. Francis of Assisi / Public Domain

## **The Gospel**

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

### **With our words and with our lives!**

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

### **With our words and with our lives!**

Swift flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Fire so intense and fiercely bright,  
who gives to us both warmth and light,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Based on words by St. Francis of Assisi / Public Domain

## **The Sermon**

**Matt Humphrey, EC**

*Bell / Silence for meditation / Bell*

**The Confession**

If we have worshipped you as a relic from the past, a theological concept, a religious novelty, but not as a living God:

**God Forgive us**

If we have heard stories of struggle and suffering with no intention of sharing the burden or the pain. **God Forgive us**

If we have identified the misuse of power, but failed to prophesy against it, and refused to empower the weak: **God Forgive us**

If we have sung songs in praise of your creation, while defiling the goodness of the earth . **God Forgive us**

*Bell Silence Bell*

**Assurance / Absolution**

**The Peace**

Beloved Community, the face of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*We acknowledge the peace of Christ in each other.*

*During this next 'offertory' song, the table is set. Contributions to our common life can be placed in the record player in the back of the space.*

*Cheques made out to 'The Emmaus Community'.*

*Charitable receipts will be issued if you provide your address.*

**Offertory Song: Let Us Break Bread Together**

Let us break bread together on our knees

Let us break bread together on our knees

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun

Oh Lord, have mercy on me

Let us drink wine together on our knees

Let us drink wine together on our knees

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun

Oh Lord, have mercy on me

Let us praise God together on our knees

Let us praise God together on our knees

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun

Oh Lord, have mercy on me

African-American Spiritual / Public Domain



# We Celebrate

## **Prayer Over the Gifts**

Creator of all, You gave us golden fields of wheat whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread. So may all creation be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Creator of all, you gave us fields of grapes whose fruit we have gathered to make into this one cup. So may all who mourn be gathered to be united at your table. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God**

Let us give thanks to the God of all of Creation

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**

You spoke the Word and all things came to be - things in heaven and things on earth. Your Spirit hovered over the primal elements, and you brought forth abundant life in innumerable forms, including this fragile earth, our home, and we amongst its many inhabitants.

As our past is in you, so our hope for the future rests with you. As we have turned from your way, so we turn again to the warmth of your self-giving love. You are the one who gives life and through you all things are brought to new life. And now we give you thanks for the glories of your creation entrusted into our care, and for the opportunities we have to share that richness with all your people. And so we join our voice to all your creatures, in heavens and on earth, forever singing the song of your praise:

*(sung)* **Holy, holy, hoy Lord -**

**God of power and Might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hossana in the highest**

**+Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna in the highest**

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, the work of human hands, the gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread and spoke to us of the breaking of his body upon the cross. He gave it to his friends and said: Take and eat, for this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the wine, the work of human hands, the gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God. He poured out the wine and spoke to us of the pouring out of his blood. He gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink this, do this in remembrance of me.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sung: **Christ has died Christ is risen Christ will come again.**

Therefore O God, we who seek your reconciliation, we who need reconciliation one with another, we who hope for reconciliation with all creation, draw close to this mystery. In being broken, poured out and buried, life springs forth again. In the breaking, there is an opening up; in the pouring out, there are the roots of sharing; in death and burial, there is the seed of the new life to come. Through these gifts of bread and wine, reconcile us to our world. Send upon us, and upon all your creation, the life-giving Spirit who first moved upon the waters of the deep. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Unite us with you through the body and blood of your Son, your Word made flesh. By whom, and with whom and in whom, in the unity of your Creative Spirit, with all that has been, is, and will be in your universe, we stand before you and worship you, God of all creation. **Amen.**

As beloved children of a loving parent we pray as Jesus taught:  
*(said in a language, translation or paraphrase of your choice)*

**Our \*Father** (\*or Parent, or Source) **in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Silence.*

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world. **Thanks be to God!**

*All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but contains almond flour and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy/almond option. Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup.  
Please do not dip bread.*

**Communion Song: Lamb of God - Tom Wuest (recorded)**

Brass Trumpet Publishing

**Communion Song: Be Our Light**

The day has gone, the hours have run;  
and you have taken count of all;  
scanty triumphs grace has won,  
the broke vow the frequent fall,  
Through life's long day and death's dark night  
Be our light - Be our light

In our midst the lowly sit,  
we're painfully aware of it;  
let the joyful song be lifted high  
so we can find some peace of mind,  
through life's long day and death's dark night  
Be our light - Be our light

© Jenny Moore / Text Fredrick Faber / St. Benedict's Table.

**Communion Song: Let Justice Roll**

Let justice roll—like a mighty river  
A-movin' fast—down to the sea  
It will erode, all our foundations  
Touch every heart—and every nation

Let justice roll - like a mighty river  
Through you and me—let justice roll  
And those who live by rule of power  
Will find their swords turned into ploughs  
And all the rich we shall be humbled  
When all the poor. reclaim this earth. *Refrain*

And those who lie just once too often  
Will find that they can't know the truth  
That lives among all of God's children  
who hand in hand seek a rebirth. *Refrain*

And the victims of—some cruel repression  
By those who fear—new thoughts and visions  
They shall not die—and be forgotten—  
They're a living stream—let justice roll. *Refrain*

*Bob Carty / © Bob Carty 2008, SOCAN*

## **We Are Sent**

### **Prayer after Communion**

God we thank you for being with us in this sacred meal of bread and wine, being gathered with us in this sacred circle of beloved community, and being present with us all the days of our life. As we see and embrace a groaning world, may we know your loving presence ever more nearly, this we ask through Christ our brother. **Amen.**

### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

### **Closing Song: O for a Thousand Tongues**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and king,  
the triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
New life the dead receive,  
The mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
The humble poor believe.

My gracious saviour and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

*VOICES UNITED 326 Charles Wesley / Tune: AZMON / Public Domain*

## **Sending**

Go in the wild animating fire of the Spirit to follow Christ and serve God's creation.

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

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*God-willing, we'll be back here **next Sunday at 4pm.***

### **Weekday Prayer :: All are welcome!!!**

**Monday Eve @ 8pm** - AbbeyChurch Chapel Quadra/Balmoral - evening prayer with centering prayer sit. Enter through the parking lot + zoom option.

**Tuesday mornings at 8:15am** - 3000 Dean (Marilyn's House) and zoom option available. Email for link.

**Thursday mornings at 8:15am** - AbbeyChurch Chapel Quadra/Balmoral - Enter through the parking lot. In-person only.

### **Ordination!**

Our own **Lynn Mills will be ordained to the Sacred Order of the Deacon** (transitional) this week - September 14th, at 7pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria. All are welcome to attend.

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*Special thanks to Tressa Brotsky for designing the backpack tags (below). For recylistas, the Local General store for freezie, to Broad View United for the bouncy castle, to our volunteer bike mechanic, to Campus United and Inclusive Christians at UVic.*



## ***Front Cover Art***

Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti (born 1 Aug 1995) is a Kenyan environment and climate activist. She planted her first tree at the age of seven and she established an environmental club in her high school with the help of her geography teacher. She was part of the leadership of Kenyatta

University Environmental Club (KUNEC) where she was able to conduct numerous activities; such as tree planting, clean ups and environmental education; all while increasing awareness of global environmental challenges like climate change .

She founded the Green Generation Initiative, which nurtures young people to love nature and be environmentally conscious at a young age. She was named as one of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans by the Africa Youth Awards. She was invited to speak at COP26 in Glasgow.

In 2022 she was invited to address the 1000 Anglican bishops and spouses at the Lambeth Conference. She joined Archbishop Justin Welby and others in launching the Anglican Communion Forest.

In this painting by Bob Mash she is pictured at the Victoria Falls of Zimbabwe, known as Mosi-oa-Tunya—"The Smoke That Thunders". This is an image of the power of the voices of young climate activists from front-line nations impacted by climate change.





# Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24

“Let justice roll on like a river,  
& righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!” - Amos 5:24

This year we are joining with the global ecumenical community to share the theme of “Let Justice and Peace flow like a river”. We are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

Our prayers, sermons and liturgies must call for justice not only for humans but for all creation. Justice, allied with peace, calls us to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions. Righteousness demands that we live in peace, not conflict with our human neighbours, and building right relationships with all of creation.

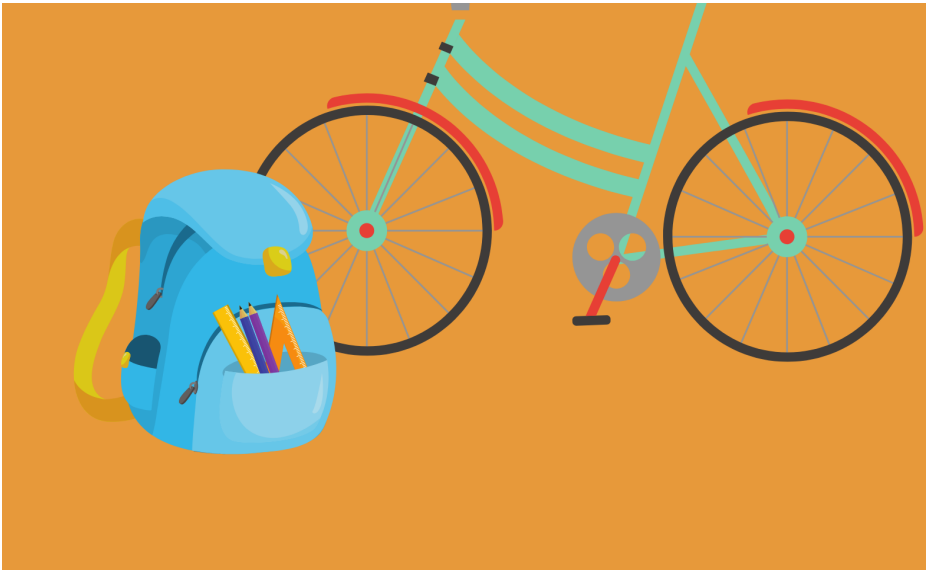
‘Peace’ (shalom) involves not only the absence of conflict but positive, life-giving relationships with God, ourselves, our human neighbours, and all creation.

Communities and cultures that recognize the sacredness of natural elements and so live as an embodiment of an interconnected way of life, expressing a partnership between people and the life of the Earth, have much to teach the rest of the world.

We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family, or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty river.

As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

*Adapted from the Season of Creation Resource Guide 2023*



Blessings to all as we begin this Fall season and The 2023 Season of Creation together!



**[admin@abbeychurch.ca](mailto:admin@abbeychurch.ca) + [www.abbeychurch.ca](http://www.abbeychurch.ca)**

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