

The 5th Sunday of Easter, Cycle B – Easter 5 (White) Sunday May 02, 2021

Presider: the Rev. Andrew Twiddy

Lectionary Readings:

ACTS 8:26-40; PSALM 22:24-30; 1 JOHN 4:7-21; JOHN 15:1-8

Music for the day:

Hymns from *Common Praise* (1998) or the local parish booklet *Open Wide the Church's Door*

Opening	CP 540	Just as the Deer <i>(all 3 verses)</i>
Reflective	-	"Tua Palavra" <i>(Latin melody – Ps 119 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, o Lord, and a light upon my path")</i>
		<i>Lyrics: Tua palavra e lâmpada para os meus pes, Senhor, luz para mi caminho</i>
Gospel	CP 557	Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ <i>(all 3 verses)</i>
Closing	CP 486	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling <i>(all 3 verses)</i>

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The Collect – the Prayer of the Day:

**God of deep soil and luxurious growth,
you call us from our shallow selves
to find our depth in you:
may we abide fully in you,
through the one who teaches us who we really are,
Jesus, the true vine. Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.



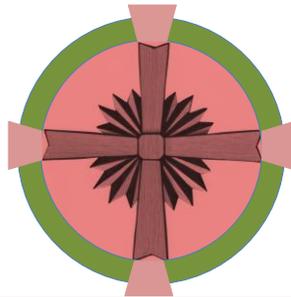
The West Coast Liturgy of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets

Morning Prayer Service

(with Resources from West Coast Liturgy & Anglican Liturgy Online)

The Anglican Parish of **Saint Anne & Saint Edmund**
Parksville, British Columbia

*a centre for spiritual growth,
compassionate action, and creative arts*



~ oneopencircle.org ~

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Resources:

<https://bc.anglican.ca/resources/worship-resources>
<https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts/>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Words of Welcome

Acclamation:

In this time and place, many of us gather online from our homes on the ancestral territories of Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuu-chah-nulth and Coast Salish peoples. I also join you in my sojourn in the Diocese in Europe, with the people of Holy Trinity, Funchal, and with acknowledgment of the people of Portugal who make possible a home for me in Madeira.

Welcome! *Gilakas'la, klecko-klecko, hay'ceep qa.* Good morning, and for some of us, *boa tarde*, good evening.

From many places and peoples we come to this house in prayer.

We gather in the name of the living God.

We meet in the presence of Jesus, God's Anointed, risen and alive.

We gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages.

In this time and place, heaven and earth are one.

We are no longer alone. We are one in Christ.

We are knit together in the unity of the Spirit.

In the name of the Holy and Blessed One,
Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Centering Stillness

Presider: In a time of quietness, let us centre ourselves, and hold ourselves open to the Spirit of God. (*silence*)

The Invitatory

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May grace and peace be with you.

May Christ fill our hearts with joy.

Collect of the Day:

**God of deep soil and luxurious growth,
you call us from our shallow selves
to find our depth in you:
may we abide fully in you,
through the one who teaches us who we really are,
Jesus, the true vine. Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

A short reflection on the hymn ~ Andrew

Opening Hymn: CP 540 Just as the Deer (all 3 verses)

Text: Ps 42, para. Brian Ruttan (1947-);

Music: Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Tune: Finlandia 10 10 10 10 10 10

Used with permission

1

Just as the deer longs for the waterbrooks
So longs my soul for you, O Lord my God
All that I am thirsts for the living spring
Of your kind presence welling deep within.
Why now so full of heaviness my soul?
Why such disquiet deep within my heart?

2

Deep calls to deep in cataracts of thunder;
 Your floods and rapids crash across my life.
 My tears have been my food both day and night;
 My God, why now have you forgotten me?
 Why now so full of heaviness my soul?
 Why such disquiet deep within my heart?

3

All through the day my God will comfort me,
 And in the night my voice will raise God's song,
 And I will go to worship in God's house.
 God of my life, to you I raise my prayer,
 and when I come into your presence, Lord,
 my barren soul will blossom with new life.

Engaging The Word and the Wisdom

A First Reading: A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Reader: Have you ever had an experience where your openness to the Spirit created new doors of opportunity? A reading from the Book of Acts.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Holy word, holy wisdom ~ hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches

ACTS 8:26-40 ~ NRSV

A short reflection on the song ~ Andrew

Reflective Song: "Tua Palavra"

(a prayer of healing – traditional Portuguese/Latin melody)

*Lyrics: Tua palavra e lâmpada para os meus pes, Senhor,
luz para mi caminho.*

The Psalm Verse ~ from Psalm 22.26

VERSE OF THE DAY:

All the ends of the earth shall remember, and turn to the Holy One.

A Second Reading: FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

Reader: "Are there stages to our growth in love?" A reading from the first letter of John (...pause)

God is love, and those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has become mature among us when this is the result: that we have boldness on the day of judgement, because as God is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love. Rather, mature love casts out fear. Fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not attained a full ripeness in love.

We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are speaking falsehood; for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot be loving God, whom they have not seen.

The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God ... must love their brothers and sisters also.

(...pause)

Holy word, holy wisdom ~ hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches

1 JOHN 4.15-21, NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy

CP 557 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ (all 3 verses)

Text: Frank von Christiernson (1900-1996)

Music: Alfred Morton Smith (1879-1971)

Tune: Sursum Corda 10 10 10 10

Used with permission

1

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
 I know not how to ask or what to say;
 I only know my need, as deep as life,
 And only you can teach me how to pray.

2

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
 Help me to see your purpose and your will,
 Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
 Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

3

Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear
 Of human need; oh, give me eyes to see
 Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured:
 My life in you, O Christ; your love in me.

The Gospel Reading:

A Wisdom Reading ~ a reflection from the Gospel of John ~ **John 15.1-6, 11**

*Andrew's translation and contextual adaptation, based on a reading of the Greek text,
 with the interpretive principle of dynamic-equivalency ~ The Process, an Interpretive Version*

An Organic and Fruitful Spirituality

*Jesus spoke to his close friends, on the night before he died, and shared some of his most intimate teachings
 about the nature of life and love, and the evolution of human consciousness and society in regard to that.*

Reader: I wonder ~ what is our level of connection to God? What does it feel
 like today? The holy gospel, according to John.

(All: Glory to you, Jesus, the Anointed One)

1-3

“I am the Vine, my Beloved is the Gardener.

The Gardener cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear fruit, and prunes back every branch that is fruit-bearing, so it will bear even more.

In fact, you are already pruned back, simply by the teaching I have given you.

4

So live in me. Make your home in me, just as I do in you.

In the same way that a branch can't bear fruit by itself, except by being joined to the vine, so you can't bear fruit, unless you are joined with me.

5-6

I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I am with you, the relationship is intimate and organic, and the harvest is bound to be plentiful. Separated, you can't produce a thing.

11

Now I've told you these things for a purpose: I want my joy to be your joy. And I want your joy to be fully ripened and mature.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom: The Gospel of the Anointed One.

(... All: Praise to you, Jesus the Anointed One)

John 15:1-6, 11 The Process, trans by. A. Twiddy

A homily or reflection ~ Andrew

A time of quietness and/or instrumental music may follow the homily

Affirming the Christian Narrative

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

An Invitation to Weekly & Daily Prayer

*in our cycle of prayer this day and throughout this week, we give thanks and we pray together
for the well-being of the world, the church, and those in special need*

We give thank and we pray for peace, justice, and well-being throughout the world:

- giving thanks for all whose lives of service promote the common good
- honouring First Nations on whose traditional territories we live and work
- asking that we may grow in our resolve to respond to climate crisis, and to care for our planet
- seeking a spirit of reconciliation & collaboration among nations, faiths, & cultures
- and remembering our governmental leaders and elected representatives,
in the municipal, provincial, federal, and international work they undertake

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for the mission and ministry of our wider family in faith:

- for ecumenical and interspiritual co-operation, and for all our neighbouring churches
- for our partnership in the Anglican communion throughout the world:
for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; for Linda our Primate; for Lynne our Metropolitan;
and for all with whom they work and serve
- for Mark our National Aboriginal Archbishop, for our journey in faith and solidarity with the
Council of the North, and for the work of all our Indigenous Anglican communities

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for the mission and ministry of our own parish and diocesan family, remembering especially:

- all our members, associates, and friends who share in our ministry
- for the ministry of all our parish groups, networks, partners & organizations
- for all parishes of our diocese, especially remembering ...
- for Anna our Bishop, and for our priests Andrew & Christine, in ministry among & beyond us;

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for those who express care and compassion,

- for those working on the frontlines of care and service in a time of global pandemic, for leaders in health care, and for research workers and those who work behind the scenes to bring relief, hope, and healing
- for the work of the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund and its global partners, for the Canadian Food Grains Bank and those responding to global hunger, drought, floods, fires, migration, and displacement
- remembering those who reach out to the needy and to vulnerable populations in our local community, & those who nurture all the circles of our citizenship, both nationally and around the world
- for the work of our local agencies serving and advocating for those on the margins, and for those who face issues of homelessness, addiction, and mental health

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

As we stand in solidarity alongside all those in need, we pray:

- for those in trouble, sorrow, conflict, sickness, or any other adversity ...
- and in silence or aloud, we remember the special needs of those requesting our prayers ...

God of love and compassion hear our prayer



Prayers of the People:

In peace, we pray to you, God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Anna our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, God; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, God, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The people may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ,
 and for those whose faith is known to you alone,
 that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

God, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.



We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;

in your compassion, forgive us our sins,

known and unknown, things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

**to the honour and glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;
you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.
Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name
of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering all our prayers and our praises into one,
we pray in the words of the Simplicity Prayer.

The Simplicity Prayer:

*The Prayer Jesus Gave Us,
in the tradition and simplicity of Clare and Francis of Assisi*

~ A Franciscan Lord's Prayer ~

The Process, version 1.1, Andrew Twiddy, August 2020.

Our Beloved,

Your energy is compassionate and unique.

We want everyone to be aware of this.

We want everything to share in this.

Restore all things,

to be in harmony, on the outside, and on the inside.

**Give us what we really need now,
for today, and for each day.**

**Free us from the harm we have done,
and help us, in our journey of recovery,
to release those who have harmed us.**

**Keep us safe during our times of distress,
and release us from oppression.**

**For your purpose, your strength, and your glory,
is to bring together everyone and everything.**

We are depending on this. We are committed to this.

The Peace

From my home to your home, from satellite to soul...
The peace of God be always with you. **And also with you.**

A Doxology

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**
**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

A short reflection on the hymn ~ Andrew

CP 486 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *(all 3 verses)*

*Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune: Blaenwern 87 87D*

*Music: William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)
Used with permission.*

1

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

3

Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Dismissal/Sending:

Alleluia! Go in peace, to love and to serve
Thanks be to God, Alleluia!