

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
May 14th 2023
Home Church Connections Service
Sixth Sunday of Easter



“Nourishing faith and community”

The Gathering of the Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us pray,

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the book of Acts

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.”

*What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we too are his offspring.”*

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:7-18

Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows, which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my mouth, and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had found evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his love from me.

Reading Two: 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the first letter to Peter

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in

you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Announcements

Prayer of thanksgiving

God of grace, accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy so let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness. (*Silence is kept*)

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.

Assurance of Pardon

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead to sin, and made us alive together in Christ. Therefore the God of love and power:

forgives us and frees us from our sins, heals and strengthens us by the Spirit, and raises us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from

evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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.

The Blessing

The blessing of the Holy Trinity; the loving Creator, who is the source of all being, of Jesus Christ who is the love incarnate in the world, and the ever present Holy Spirit, hold you, surround you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Scottish Episcopal Church; for Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Qu'Appelle, Bishop Rob Hardwick; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese, we pray for Anna, our bishop; Parish of Central Saanich, The Venerable Dr. Lon Towstego.

In our region, we pray for the faithful of St Dunstan and Interim The Rev. Heather Robinson.

In our parish we pray for Karen Martin; Janet McDonald; Marge McIntosh; and Joseph Motuz.

In our community we pray for St. John the Divine Food Bank and those whose illness is addiction in our society.

For the month of May, we pray for those who offer gifts of gardening and landscaping care around the church.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples, the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

Welcome to all those visiting us at St. Peter and St. Paul.

We welcome saints, seekers and sinners as we live into a life in Christ, learning about and from one another as we worship God together.

Christ binds us together in love through our diversity. If you are comfortable, please give us your name and address so we can add you to our weekly prayer list. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

Washrooms are found in the hall, up the stairs, on the right.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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