



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC • Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Africa Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

10:30 A.M.

Choral Eucharist | In-Person & Livestream

The Reverend Tellison Glover, *Presider*

The Reverend Christian Okeke, *Preacher*

The Reverend Juanita Clark, *Deacon*

Dr. Neil Cockburn, *Organist & Director of Music*

MAILING ADDRESS: 690 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2L1

WEBSITE: www.thecathedral.ca | PHONE: (604) 682-3848 | E-MAIL: reception@thecathedral.ca

Welcome to the Cathedral

Whether today is your first time with us, or if this is your spiritual home, we welcome you to the Cathedral. We're glad that you're here today.

We envision a radically inclusive, restlessly inquisitive, intentional, and inspired Cathedral. This is a place that is called to lead and to serve, in communion and community, with healing, reconciliation, and love, living out the Christian mission. Together, we look to the power of Christ for the transformation of each person, this city of Vancouver, and the world.

We recognize our history and traditions while seeking renewal and growth in spiritual depth and size. Curious and adaptable, this chorus has room for every voice — especially yours.

To learn more about the many ministries and opportunities for service in this community, please visit our website: www.thecathedral.ca. Following our worship service, please join us for coffee hour on the plaza right outside the Burrard St. doors, weather permitting.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence enriches our life together.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



The Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas, Ph.D., D.Min.
Dean & Rector



Connect with us!

We invite you to tell us more about yourself by completing our short connection form. You may find this form at tinyurl.com/CathedralConnection or by scanning the QR code on the left.

A message to children and their grown-ups

We're glad you're here! Here are a few things we would like you to know about our 10:30 a.m. worship service:

- Playmats and an activity cart with books, puzzles and colouring are available at the front of the church;
- Our nursery is downstairs. It is open for you to use if you need a space for your kids to settle or to feed them. The service is live streamed to the nursery. It is unstaffed.

If you need directions, please ask a greeter and they'll be happy to help you. If you have any questions about our ministry, please contact the Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan. God's peace and blessings enfold you and your family!

Need to reach us?

Visit us at www.thecathedral.ca/pages/our-team or scan the QR code on the right to access our clergy and staff contact information.

We're here to support you — feel free to reach out anytime!



The Gathering of the Community

Processional Hymn

Imela (Thank you)

Nathaniel Bassey (1981-)

Thank you, great and mighty creator of the world, thank you, my king.
Who is like you? Glory belongs to you, he who does good.
Who is like you? All glory belongs to you, mighty healer.

Presider Alleluia Christ is risen!

All **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

Presider May his grace and peace be with you.

All **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Hymn of Praise

Mambo Sawa Sawa (Things are Already Better)

Mambo sawa sawa, mambo sawasawa
Yesu akiwa enzini,
Mambo sawasawa, mambo sawasawa,
Mambo sawasawaaa.

'The adiwo mma, ihe adiwo mma
Ebe Jesus no n'очеze,
'The adiwo mma, ihe adiwo mma
ihe adiwo mma

Things are already better, things are already better
For the Lord is on the throne,
Things are already better, things are already better
Things are already better,

The Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Presider Merciful God,

All 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 for ever. Amen

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

Acts 16:9-15

At the conclusion of the reading:

Reader Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

God of Mercy, God of Grace

(CP 341)

Text: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt.

Music: HEATHLANDS, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

1 God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of your face;
shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
fill your church with light divine;
and your saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.

2 Let the people praise you, Lord;
be by all that live adored;
let the nations shout and sing

glory to their Saviour King;
at your feet their tribute pay,
and your holy will obey.

3 Let the people praise you, Lord;
earth shall then its fruits afford,
God to us all blessings give,
we to God devoted live:
all below and all above
one in joy and light and love.

The Second Reading

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

At the conclusion of the epistle:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

All Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Text: Desmond Tutu (1931-2021); adapt. John Bell (1949-).

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell (1949-).

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is us.' The score includes a repeat sign after the first line and a final double bar line at the end.

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than
hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;
life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is
ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is us.

The Holy Gospel

John 14:23-29

Deacon The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the Deacon says:

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Christian Okeke

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

Deacon Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
And became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

In the *Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer*, we pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya. In the *Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Full Communion Cycle of Prayer*, the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Ottawa. *Together*, Jerusalem and the Holy Land Sunday; the *Evangelical Lutheran Church* in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and for peace in the Middle East. In the *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer*, we pray for Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Whonnock; St. John, Shaughnessy — the Rev. Terry Dirbas; the West Point Grey Neighbourhood Ministry.

The Peace

Presider Christ says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

This is not the peace of comfort or silence — but the peace of the Risen Lord,
stronger than fear, deeper than sorrow, wide enough for every nation and every heart.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

All And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Offertory

Thank you for your prayerful stewardship of the ministries of the Cathedral. Your generous gift of any amount matters, because your stewardship empowers our mission to advance the Good News of God's infinite love and mercy through our worship, ministries, formation, and service. You may make a gift using the offering plate being passed around at this time or [refer to the back page of this bulletin to see other methods](#). Together with the gifts of bread and wine, we present our gifts at the Altar as a sign of thanksgiving to God, from whom all good things come.

Offertory Hymn

Tobechukwu (Praise God)

Nathaniel Bassey (1941-)

Refrain:

Tobechukwu, Tobechukwu

Tobechukwu, He has done it for me.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God of Glory

All accept all we offer you this day,
and bring us to that eternal city of love and light,
where Christ is King.
We ask this in his name. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 1

Enriching Our Worship (EOW)

Presider The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God [...] we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Music: South African Traditional

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power, of
power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes, comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san -
- na, ho - san - na, in the high - est.

Presider
All

Blessed are you, gracious God, [...] Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Music: Community Mass, Richard Proulx (1937-2010).

Presider
All

Remembering his death and resurrection [...] to you be honour, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music: Community Mass, Richard Proulx (1937-2010).

The Lord's Prayer

(CP 744)

Music: Nicholas Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); arr. Neil Cockburn.

Presider



As our Sav-iour taught us, let us pray:

Our Fa-ther in heaven, hal- lowed be your name, your king- dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us to- day our dai- ly bread.
For- give us our sins as we for- give those who sin a- gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de- liv- er us from e- vil.
For the king- dom, the power, and the glo- ry are yours,
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All Thanks be to God.

Fraction

Ndikhokhele Bawo

Xhosa prayer, arr. Mzwandile Mabuza (1991-)

Guide me, O Lord. Guide me, O great Redeemer,
through the troubles of this world.
Lord, I thank you for watching over me thus far.
You are forever by my side.

The Communion

To receive the consecrated Bread, approach the altar and extend your hands to the minister with palms open. To receive the consecrated Wine, carefully guide the chalice to your lips. For public health, please do not dip the Bread into the Wine. If you do not wish to partake of the common cup, know that you receive the full efficacy of communion with only the Bread. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are invited to receive a blessing by approaching the altar and crossing your arms over your chest. You may also remain in your seat as you feel comfortable. If you are interested in learning about baptism, please contact a member of our clergy. During communion, Healing Prayer is offered for all people in the west alcove. Please respect the confidentiality of the people praying by not entering the alcove during prayer time.

Ukuthula kulomhlabawezono, alleluia
igazi lika Jesu linyenyez' ukuthula
Usindiso ...
Ukubonga ...
Ukukholwa ...
Ukunqoba ...
Induduzo ...

Peace in this world of sin, alleluia;
the blood of Jesus brings peace.
Redemption ...
Praise ...
Faith ...
Victory ...
Peace ...

The Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

Father,

All you restored us to life
by raising your Son from death.
May we who receive this sacrament
always be strengthened to do your will,
in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.. Amen.

The Doxology

Presider Glory to God,

All 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.

[Commissioning for lay ministers who will be taking communion to those not able to participate in the Eucharist at the church]

Presider In the name of this congregation,
I send you forth bearing Holy gifts,
that those to whom you go
may share with us in the body and blood of Christ.

All We who are many are one body,
because we share one bread, one cup.]

The Blessing

Presider

May the God of all creation dance with joy over you.
May Christ, the Risen One, walk with you in peace.
May the Spirit sing through you with power and praise,
like rivers of life flowing through every land.

And may the blessing of the Triune God—
+the Maker of the nations,
the Light of the world,
and the Breath of all living—
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

Chuku, Inye'ak'ayi na mgb'ochie (O God, our help in ages past)

Text: Ps. 90; para. Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft (1678-1727)

1 (Sung by musicians in Igbo) O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 (Sung by musicians in Swahili) under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time like an ever-rolling stream
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

The Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the risen Lord.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Toccata on “Great Day”
(from *Four Spirituals*)

Adolphus Hailstork (1941-)



Africa Sunday is a celebration held by many churches across the continent and in the African diaspora on the Sunday closest to Africa Day (May 25), which commemorates the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963—now the African Union (AU).

Africa Sunday offers Christian communities an opportunity to give thanks for the rich spiritual, cultural, and historical heritage of Africa, to reflect on the continent’s struggles and triumphs, and to recommit themselves to the vision of justice, peace, and unity. Rooted in the biblical call to liberation, it connects deeply with Christ’s mission to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed (Luke 4:18).

In many contexts, Africa Sunday lifts up themes central to liberation theology: God’s preferential option for the poor, the dignity of every person, and the church’s role in resisting systems of injustice. It is a moment for the church to bear prophetic witness—praying and working for transformation in the face of poverty, conflict, and exploitation—while also celebrating the Spirit’s ongoing work through African leadership, creativity, and resilience.

Here in Vancouver, celebrating Africa Sunday is an act of solidarity, recognition, and hope. In a city shaped by migration, diversity, and growing African diasporic communities, it reminds us that the Body of Christ is global—and that the joys and struggles of Africa are not distant from us, but part of our shared Christian story. Africa Sunday challenges us to listen more deeply to African voices, to honour the contributions of African Christians to theology, worship, music, and mission, and to stand with those who continue to seek justice, healing, and equity.

As a cathedral committed to Christ’s liberating love, we can embody Africa Sunday by making space for African leadership in our common life, praying for African nations and diasporic communities, engaging in partnerships that advance global justice, and learning from liberation theologies rooted in African soil. It is both a celebration and a call—to walk humbly, act justly, and love mercy in communion with sisters and brothers across the continent of Africa and around the world.

The Ministers of the Liturgy

Presider	The Reverend Tellison Glover	ASL Interpreter	Vanessa Coley-Donohue
Preacher	The Reverend Christian Okeke	Music	The Cathedral Choir
Deacon	The Reverend Juanita Clark		Simangele Mabena,
Subdeacon	Nura Mohammed		Elliot Polsky (drums),
MC	Megan Otton		Debby Chukwu Okeke,
Servers	Esther Aneke, Junoh Bede, Francis Hart-D'Emilio		Kachi Okeke, Dr. Neil Cockburn (Org. & Dir. of Music)
Readers	Florence Nyakio & Kaka Felesia	Sound/Livestream	Building Staff
Intercessor	Byron Jang	Duty Trustee	Irene Pang
Lay Admin. Gospel	Holly McMillan	Welcoming Team	Jane Dittrich, Nasim Mehregan,
Lay Admin. Preacher	David McMillan		Howard Teasley, John Wade,
Lay Admin. Presider	Carol Cook		Marilyn Campbell
Lay Admin. Alcove	Michael Harding	Altar Guild	Sarah Nation, Almaz Ketema
Clergy Alcove	The Reverend Areeta Bridgemohan	Healing Prayer Team	Colin Miles, Nicky Seppala
Clergy Gospel	The Reverend Jenny Wong Nam		





Today

A Hymn Festival: Sing Praises Old and New: | Sunday, May 25 | 4:00 p.m.

Save The Date

Blessing for Bicycle Riders | Sunday, June 1 | 10:30am-12:00pm

First Sundays Godly Play | Sunday, June 1 | 10:30am-11:30pm

 <p>E-transfer your donation to ar@thecathedral.ca. Please provide your name and address in the Memo Field for tax receipt purposes.</p>	 <p>SCAN TO DONATE</p> <p>Make a gift through our secure website at www.thecathedral.ca/give, accessible via the QR code above.</p>	 <p>Tip Tap donations are non-receiptable.</p>
 <p>An envelope is enclosed for your convenience to give cash or cheque. If you cannot find it, ask a greeter for one. Please also provide your name and address for tax receipt purposes.</p>		

This worship takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations, in the heart of Vancouver.

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