



Diocese of  
New Westminster  
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



# **St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church**

*Doing God's Love Since 1899*

***June 22, 2025***

***Indigenous Day of Prayer***

***10:00 a.m. Family Eucharist***

*Celebrant: The Reverend Patrick Blaney*

***St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church***

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## **WELCOME**

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We ask that you please turn all cell phones and other electronic devices to silent or "off". Thank you.

After the service, we invite everyone (especially newcomers!) to join us for coffee or tea, and visit our Welcome Table downstairs in the Lounge. This is a place where you can learn more about the various activities and groups here at St. John's, find contact information, ways to get involved and have fun! We look forward to getting to know you better!

### **The Anglican Church**

As Anglicans we believe that God is eternal, the earth maker, the pain bearer, the life giver; source of all that is and shall be; father and mother of us all. We learn that God is one, yet revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer - a Holy Trinity.

We believe that Christians learn about God in the Bible, in the teaching of the Church summed up in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and through sharing in the living community of faith. We believe Jesus Christ was incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. We are an Apostolic Church, meaning that Bishops are a part of our leadership and we can trace our line of Bishops back to the 12 Apostles.

As Anglicans we get to know God by God's initiative in our thinking and understanding: by experiencing and reflecting on the wonder and mystery of creation, birth and death, love, forgiveness and the need to find meaning and worth beyond ourselves.

Everyone is welcome at St. John's, whether you were raised Anglican, or followed another faith, or you have no faith background at all. We hope you find what you are looking for in our service today.

### **Our Service Today**

This liturgy (the words we say) comes from the Book of Alternative Services, and is the common, contemporary Anglican liturgy.

As we proceed through the service, this bulletin will help you recognize when to stand and when to sit, when to speak and when to sing, when to pray silently and when to pray aloud. We invite you to read aloud with us anytime the bulletin says **All**.

## Chapel Candles

At any time during the service, you are welcome to prayerfully light a candle in the chapel in honour of a loved one, or in a prayer of concern.

## Ministering today at our 10:00 a.m. service:

Celebrant and Preacher:	The Reverend Patrick Blaney
Liturgical Assistant:	Jill Parsons, Chaplain
Crucifer and Altar Server:	Hazel Breakey
Choir Director:	Christie Smith
Musician:	Galina Martyniuk - piano, organ
Readers:	Diane Johnson, Janet Harris
Intercessor:	Tracey MacLennan
Eucharistic Administrators:	Tracey MacLennan, Linda Harrison
Welcome Table:	Kingsley Agyeman

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

Flowers are donated by Pat and Bill Muir, in remembrance of Pat's brother John Foley, who will be laid to rest in Northumberland, England tomorrow, June 23.

*The official Flower Calendar is in the Narthex. Please sign up for the Sunday that you would like to donate Altar Flowers, even if you signed up somewhere else previously. If you have any questions, please contact Donna in the office.*

## The Offertory Plate sits at the back of the church:

We do not "pass the plate" at St. John's. We invite you to place your donation on the Offertory Plate at the back of the church anytime. During the Offertory Hymn the plate is brought forward to the altar.

Your thoughtful and generous gifts to St. John's enable our worship and ministries to our community. One-time or recurring donations can be made by visiting our website [www.stjohnnv.ca](http://www.stjohnnv.ca), or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.



## The New "Faithful Friends" Section

We want our worship to be welcoming to everyone, so we have added a section at the end of the bulletin called Faithful Friends. The activities on this page will appeal to the young, the young at heart, and the neurodivergent. We welcome artwork drawn by anyone in the parish, to publish in the bulletin.

## Prelude & Announcements

## ***Processional Hymn - Just As I Am***

*We stand for the Processional Hymn, as the ministry team enters the sanctuary.*

## ***Territorial Acknowledgement***

Celebrant We acknowledge with respect that we worship on the traditional territories of the Squamish - Mother of the Wind, the Tsleil-Waututh - People of the Inlet, and the Musqueam - People of the River Grass. Let us pray that we may live more deeply into the calls to action from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**All            May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace. Amen**

## ***Honouring the Four Directions***

*A prayer resource based on the colours of the medicine wheel.*

Leader        Come Great Spirit, as we gather in your name.

We face East:

To your symbol colour Red, the hue of revelation;  
To your animal symbol the Eagle, strong and nurturing;  
To your lessons calling us to the balance of your  
Spirit in Harmony with brothers and sisters;  
To invoke your wisdom and grace,  
the goodness of the ages,  
We pray:

**All            COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

Leader We turn to face South:  
 To your symbol colour Gold for the morning star.  
 To your symbol Brother Sun that enlightens our intellect  
 and brings light on our path to live responsibly;  
 To your lessons calling us to balance of Mind  
 in the Spirit of humility;

Leader To invoke your spirit of illumination and far sighted vision;  
 Help us to love you and one another with our whole heart,  
 our whole mind, and our whole soul,  
 We pray:

**All COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

Leader We turn to face West:  
 To your symbol colour Black, still and quiet.  
 To your animal symbol the Thunderbird;  
 To your symbol the Thunder mighty and purposeful;  
 To your lessons calling us to balance our emotions  
 in the spirit of Gentleness and Honesty;  
 To invoke your spirit of introspection, seeing within;  
 Give us your strength and the courage to endure,  
 We pray:

**All COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

Leader We turn to face North:  
 To your symbol colour white of clarity and brightness.  
 To your animal symbol the swan  
 which brings us in touch with  
 Mother Earth and growing things;  
 To your lessons calling us to balance of  
 our Body in the spirit of a good sense of humor;  
 To invoke your spirit of innocence, trust and love;  
 Help us to open our eyes to  
 the sacredness of every living thing,  
 We pray:

**All COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

Leader We turn to complete the circle and to look:  
To God, our Creator  
who cleanses our Mother Earth with snow, wind and rain;  
To Jesus Christ,  
Leader the Peacemaker who fills us with the wideness of mercy  
and Lovingly embraces all,  
and the Holy Spirit who inspires us to action.  
We pray:

**All COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME. Amen**

## ***The Gathering of the Community***

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

**All                      And also with you.**

Celebrant    Almighty God,

**All      To you all hearts are open,  
all desires are 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.**

## ***Glory to God***

**All (sung) Glory to God in the highest  
And peace to his people on earth.**

**All** Lord God, heavenly king,  
 almighty God and Father,  
 we worship you, we give you thanks,  
 we praise you for your glory.  
 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 only Son of the Father,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God  
 you take away the sin of the world:  
 have mercy on us;  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
 receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
 Jesus Christ,  
 with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### ***The Collect***

Celebrant Creator God,

**All** from you every family in  
 heaven and earth takes its name.  
 You have rooted and grounded us  
 in your covenant love,  
 and empowered us by your Spirit  
 to speak the truth in love,  
 and to walk in your way towards  
 justice and wholeness.  
 Mercifully grant that your people,  
 journeying together in partnership,  
 may be strengthened and guided  
 to help one another to grow  
 into the full stature of Christ,  
 who is our light and our life. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

# ***The Proclamation of the Word***

***The First Reading:*** Read by Diane Johnson.  
A reading from the First Book of Kings.

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15A

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All    Thanks be to God.**



***Psalmic Hymn - based upon Psalm 42***  
**- Just As the Deer**

Please remain seated as we sing the Psalm together.

***The Second Reading:*** Read by Janet Harris.  
 A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:23-29

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All    Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn - Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

*Before the reading of the Gospel, we sing the first two verses of the Gradual Hymn. Please stand for the Gradual Hymn and the Gospel if you are able.*

*We turn to face the Liturgical Assistant as they read the Gospel from the centre of the sanctuary. Then we sing the last part of the Gospel Hymn facing the altar.*

## **The Gospel - Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Liturgical Assistant      The Lord be with you.

**All**      **And also with you.**

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

**All**      **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had

happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Luke 8:26-39

Liturgical Assistant      The Gospel of Christ.

**All    Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, we sing the last verse of the Gradual hymn.*

**Sermon**    The Reverend Patrick Blaney

***Time for Reflection***

***The Apostles' Creed***

Celebrant      Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**All**                    **He descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again.**  
**He ascended into heaven,**  
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again**  
**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 People* - Hear Our Prayer**

*You are invited to sit, kneel, or stand, whichever is most comfortable for you  
for the prayers of the people.*

**The Church:** We pray for Archbishop John Stephens our Metropolitan, and Archbishop Anne Germond, Acting Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. We pray for Archbishop Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of the Sacred Circle. Also, we pray for Patrick our Priest. For Jill in her discernment, work and studies to become an Anglican Priest. For St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill - The Reverend Expedito Farinas; 127 Society for Housing – Ms Joan Seidl, President; Education for Ministry - The Reverend Paula Porter Leggett, Diocesan Coordinator. For Primate Brent Alawas, Bishop Benny Lang-akan and the Clergy and People of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines. Our companion parish, St John the Evangelist Mission and Outstations, Pasnadan, The Reverend Tristan Bati-el.

**The Local Community:** City & District of North Vancouver, Queen Mary Community School, Lookout Housing and Health Society of the North Shore, Camp Artaban, and Aspire Day Camp.

**The World:** *Jesus Christ, our leader, you are the Son of the Creator.  
Today we became your children today we became your grandchildren.  
We will live as you have taught us. We will follow your commandments.  
Watch over us. Speak to us from the trees,  
from the grass and herbs, from the breeze, from the passing rain,  
from the passing thunder and the deep waters.  
Before us there is beauty, behind us there is beauty.  
Allow us to walk a long life in happiness completed in beauty. Amen.  
(From the Liturgy of St. John's, Red Lake, MN)*

**Those in Need:** For those who are sick, hospitalized and in need of our prayers. This week, our prayers are requested especially for these members and friends of our St. John's faith community: Laurie Stringer, Mir and his family, Madeline Cooper, Maria Morellato, MC, Ron Paxon, Mark.

**The Dearly Departed:** We pray for our brother in Christ, Raf Ellis, and for Margaret and his friends and family who mourn his passing. We pray for John Foley, and for his sister Pat Muir and her family as they mourn his loss. We pray for all who have passed on from this life and live forever in our hearts.

**In Thanksgiving:** In our cycle of prayer, we pray for these members of our faith community: Peri Mainwaring, Galina Martyniounk, Raili Mazurek, Heather McDonald, Dianne McLatchie, Yvonne Michael, and their families.

## ***Confession and Absolution***

Celebrant            Dear friends in Christ,  
                          God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
                          God welcomes us  
                          and invites us to this table.  
                          Let us confess our sins,  
                          confident in God's forgiveness.

*(A prayerful silence is kept)*

Celebrant            Most merciful God,

**All                    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.  
                          Amen.**

Celebrant            Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
                          pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
                          confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
                          and keep you in eternal life;  
                          through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All                    Amen.**

## ***Sharing of The Peace***

*Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant                      May the peace of Christ always be with you.

**All                              And also with you.**

*The members of the community may greet each other in the name of the Lord. Many of us will simply smile and say "Peace be with you".*

## ***The Offertory***

*The Offertory Plate can be found at the back of the church by the double doors, and you may place your donation there anytime before or during the service. Your thoughtful and generous gifts enable our worship and ministry to our community and the world. We sincerely thank you.*

*We stand for the Offertory Hymn. After the Offertory Hymn, the Offertory Plate will be presented to the altar.*

## ***Offertory Hymn - They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love***

### ***The Celebration of the Eucharist***

#### ***Preparation of the Gifts***

*The liturgical assistants set the Altar and prepare the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist. The Offertory Plate, that holds our donations for the needs and responsibilities of the Church, is then brought forward to be blessed before the Altar.*

#### ***The Doxology***

**All (sung) Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

#### ***The Prayer Over the Gifts***

Celebrant Creator,

**All you bless us with many good gifts  
returned to you from your creation.  
Feed us with the Bread of Life,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please remain standing as you are able.*



## ***The Great Thanksgiving/Eucharistic Prayer 1 (DoNW)***

Celebrant <b>All</b>	The Lord be with you. <b>And also with you.</b>
Celebrant <b>All</b>	Lift up your hearts. <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
Celebrant <b>All</b>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. <b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>
Celebrant	<p>It is indeed right that we should praise you,          gracious God,          for you created all things.          You formed us in your own image:          male and female and all genders you created us.          When we turned away from you in sin,          you did not cease to care for us,          but opened a path of salvation for all people.          You made a covenant with Israel,          and through your servants Abraham and Sarah          gave the promise of a blessing to all nations.          Through Moses you led your people          from bondage into freedom;          through the prophets          you renewed your promise of salvation.          Therefore, with them, and with all your saints          who have served you in every age,          we give thanks and raise our voices          to proclaim the glory of your name.</p>
<b>All (sung)</b>	<p><b>Holy, holy, holy Lord,          God of power and might,          heaven and earth are full of your glory.          Hosanna in the highest.          Blessed is he who comes          in the name of the Lord.          Hosanna in the highest,          Hosanna in the highest.</b></p>

Celebrant

Holy God, source of life and goodness,  
all creation rightly gives you praise.  
In the fullness of time,  
you sent your Son Jesus Christ,  
to share our human nature,  
to live and die as one of us,  
to reconcile us to you,  
the God and Father of all.  
He healed the sick  
and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;  
he opened the eyes of the blind  
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom  
to the poor and to those in need.  
In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
and said, "Take, eat:  
this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;  
and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them,  
and said, "Drink this, all of you:  
this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me."

Gracious God,  
his perfect sacrifice  
destroys the power of sin and death;  
by raising him to life  
you give us life for evermore.

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All**  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection,  
 and looking for his coming again in glory,  
 we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup.  
 Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,  
 that all who eat and drink at this table  
 may be one body and one holy people,  
 a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
 Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory is yours, almighty Father,  
 now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

Celebrant As our Saviour taught us to pray, let us sing,

**All**  
**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.**

## ***The Breaking of the Bread***

Celebrant                We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All                        We, being many, are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread**

## ***The Communion***

Celebrant                The Gifts of God, for the people of God.

**All                        Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated as the Communion is prepared.*

*All who love God and desire Christ are welcome to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please let the Eucharistic Administrator know if you wish to receive one. Please note intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine), is not permitted.*

## ***Communion Hymns***

- **This is the Body of Christ**
- **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**
- **Out of the Depths**

*The Eucharistic administrators will first serve Communion to the choir. Then they will stand at the front of the church and the congregation will come forward in two lines down the centre aisle to take Communion. If you want to come forward for a blessing, please line up for the minister and cross your arms over your chest.*

## ***Celebrant Takes Communion***

*After the congregation has been served, the celebrant takes Communion at the altar, saying the following.*

Celebrant: The body of Christ, food for our journey.  
The blood of Christ, the cup of love.

And now I invite you here, and you at home, to put your hand over your heart and accept the communion of God.

**All                    Amen.**

*The communion hymns continue as the Liturgical Assistants clear the altar.*

## ***Prayer after Communion***

*Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant Great Creator,

**All            you have fed us with bread from heaven.  
Continue to renew us in your truth,  
to give light to our minds strength to our bodies,  
and seal us with your Holy Spirit.  
We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.**

## ***The Doxology***

Celebrant 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.**

## ***The Blessing***

## ***Recessional Hymn - For the Healing of the Nations***

## ***Dismissal***

Liturgical Assistant  
**All**

Words of dismissal  
**Thanks be to God.**

*There is a brief musical postlude for those who wish to stay.*



Thank you for blessing us with your presence today.

Following today's service, there will be a short blessing for St. John's Memorial Garden. The liturgy follows. Those who wish to attend, please take the bulletin with you and gather around the Memorial Garden which is situated downstairs, outside the lounge and to the right.

Please do join us downstairs in the Lounge  
for our tea and coffee fellowship.

***A Service of Blessing  
for the  
Refurbishment of the Memorial Garden  
at St. John's Anglican Church***



*Sunday, June 22, 2025  
Directly after the 10:00 A.M. Service*



Celebrant Today we gather in this sacred space, a garden that holds within it the echoes of love, loss, and remembrance. This Memorial Garden is not merely a collection of plants and stones; it is a living testament to the lives we have cherished, the memories we hold dear, and the grief we carry in our hearts. As we prepare for the refurbishment of this garden, let us take a moment to reflect on its significance and to bless those who have been touched by its beauty and solace.

There is a time to mourn, a time to remember, and a time to celebrate the lives of those we have lost. This garden stands as a sacred space for all of these moments—a refuge for reflection, a place for healing, and a spot where we can connect with the memories of our loved ones. Let us begin by blessing those who are in this garden today.

**All            May our friends and loved ones find comfort in the gentle rustle of the leaves, the soft fragrance of the flowers, and the tranquility that envelops this place. Lord, we ask that you grant eternal peace to those who are interred here.**

Celebrant We also bless those who have tended this garden.

**All            The hands that have nurtured these plants and cared for this space have demonstrated love in action. Their dedication transforms this garden into a sanctuary. Lord, bless them abundantly for their commitment and for the nurturing spirit they share with others.**

Celebrant Let us bless the visitors who have walked these paths in their grief and sorrow. Each person who has come here has brought their own heartache, seeking solace and connection to those they have lost.

**All            We bless them today, praying that they may find comfort in the beauty of this garden and in the shared love that binds us together in our human experience.**

Celebrant We also bless those who take time to reflect on their memories in this sacred space. Lord, as they reflect, may they be reminded of the love that transcends even death, and may they find hope in the promise of eternal life.

**All Reflection is a powerful act, allowing us to honor our loved ones and to process our emotions. May those who pause here find clarity, strength, and comfort in their remembrance.**

Celebrant Finally, we bless those who will work on the refurbishment of this garden. As we seek to enhance this space, may their efforts be guided by your wisdom and creativity. Lord, as they labor, may they be inspired to create an even more beautiful sanctuary that honors the memories of those we hold dear.

**All Let their work not only beautify this garden but also deepen the connection we all have to this place of remembrance.**

Celebrant As we embark on this journey of refurbishment, let us remember that this garden is more than just a physical space; it is a heartfelt expression of love, faith, and hope.

**All May it continue to be a sacred ground for all who seek solace, and may it flourish as a testament to the enduring bonds of love that connect us all. Amen.**

Celebrant We now bless and entrust this refurbishment of the Memorial Garden to the glory of God and the memory of all whose lives who are honoured here, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **(All) Amen.**

**All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**



# Faithful Friends

*Activity Page for Any Age*

## Stained Glass Windows

Just like many other churches, St. John's Church has beautiful stained glass windows. Some of them are almost 100 years old. They show different scenes from the Bible Stories we tell in church. Looking at those windows now:

How many human faces can you count? \_\_\_\_\_

How many characters in the windows are wearing red? \_\_\_\_\_

## Music

What is your favourite musical instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

Which hymn (song) in today's service did you like best?

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## Standing or Sitting or Kneeling: Standing

During a service of worship, we often stand, sit, or kneel, depending on what we are doing in the service. In general we stand when we are singing a hymn or reading together out loud. We always stand out of respect when the Gospel reading for the day is read.

How many times did you stand up in today's service? \_\_\_\_\_

## Draw a Picture

Galina plays the piano so beautifully for us. Try to draw a piano.

