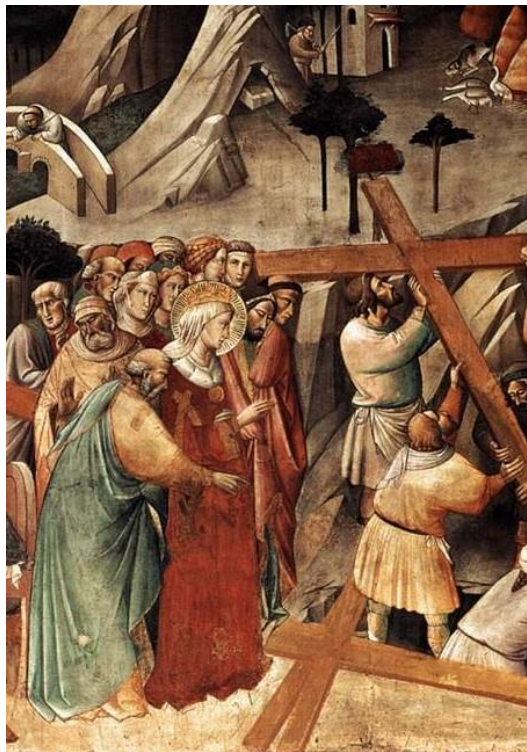


The Anglican Parish of  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
September 14<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Holy Cross Day  
Home Church Connections



Nourishing Faith  
and Community

# THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

## Words of Welcome

### 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**

### Renewing our commitment

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

**I will, with God's help.**

Let us pray,

Almighty God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself, may we who rejoice in the mystery of our redemption, have grace to take up our cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

### First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

*From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 98:1-6

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
**for he has done marvellous things.**

His right hand and his holy arm  
**have gained him victory.**

The Lord has made known his victory;  
**he has revealed his vindication in the sight of  
the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and  
faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory  
of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
**with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
**make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are  
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For  
it is written,*

*‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’*

*Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Good News of Jesus according to John  
**Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

*No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

*‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

*‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

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

Sermon *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Announcements

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### The Affirmation of Faith

(Taken from Season of Creation ecumenical service which was adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
God made flesh,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. 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.**

#### Blessing

#### Dismissal

**Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit**

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## Weekly Cycles of Prayer

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East; for our Primate the Right Reverend Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Western Newfoundland, Bishop John Organ; and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese, we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee and in our region, St. Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay, The Rev. Craig Hiebert and The Rev. Dyan Davison.

In our parish we pray for: Aaron Isberg, Faye & Roy Johnson, Fred King, Rhonda Koch, Rob Bagley & Teresa Krause, Leatrice Lam, Doreen Langmeed, and Nico, Vannessa, Hypatia and Aurelia Lohmann.

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

For the month of September we pray for the Food Drive Ministry.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL  
ESQUIMALT

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