



**VESPERS
on the Lesser Feast of
Harriet Bedell
Deaconess and Missionary
1969**

2026 Jan 8

As members of a parish in the Diocese of New Westminster, we acknowledge that we are gathered from a variety of locations within the traditional and unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish people, including but not limited to, the halq’-emylém speaking Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Tseil-watuth, and Tsawwassen nations.

The Preparation

Officiant

Harriet Bedell was born in Buffalo, New York on March 19, 1875. Inspired by an Episcopal missionary, she enrolled as a student at the New York Training School for Deaconesses, receiving instruction in religion, missions, teaching, and health. She then became a missionary-teacher among the Cheyenne at the Whirlwind Mission in Oklahoma, where she was eventually adopted into the tribe as “Bird Woman.” In 1916, Bedell was sent to Stevens Village, Alaska, where she was set apart as a deaconess in 1922. She also served as a teacher and nurse at St. John’s in the Wilderness at Allakaket, 40 miles south of the Arctic Circle. In 1932, hearing about the plight of the Seminoles in Florida, Bedell used her own salary to reopen a mission among the Mikasuki first nation. There, she worked to revive some of their traditional crafts. The store they established to sell their handicrafts improved the economy of the Blades Cross Mission. Active into her eighties, she was one of the most popular writers in the Episcopal mission periodical, “The Spirit of Missions”. She won the respect of indigenous people through her compassion and respect for their way of life and beliefs. The Diocese of Southwest Florida has long celebrated Harriet Bedell Day on January 8, the anniversary of her death in 1969.

Adapted from ***Lesser Feasts and Fasts***
The Episcopal Church of the United States

The Preparation

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us,
O Lord, make haste to help us.

From the rising of the Sun to its setting
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.
Amen.

Act of Praise

Take My Life, and Let it Be
Common Praise 435

Cantor or Officiant

Take my life, and let it be consecrated,
Lord to thee; take my moments, and
my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the
impulse of thy love; take my feet, and
let them be swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with
messages from thee; take my intellect
and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall
be no longer mine; take my heart, it
is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: my Lord I pour at thy
feet its treasure store; take myself, and
I will be ever, only, all for thee.

The Psalm

Psalm 96: 1 - 7

Psalmist

Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

The Psalm Prayer

We worship you, God of glory, in the beauty of holiness, and we joyfully proclaim your just and righteous rule, established for all, through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

The Reading

Matthew 5: 1 - 12

Reader

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Response

*After a brief period of reflection
the Reader says:*

Blessed are the meek for they shall
inherit the Earth.

Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant

Let us affirm our faith as we recite “Hear, O Israel”.

**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.

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Officiant

God has blessed creation with a great variety of gifts and gathered all people into one family, so that in sharing we might strengthen, and be strengthened by, one another in our hearts and minds. We offer our prayers to God, responding to the bidding “God of Love” with **“Hear our prayers”**.

In the Anglican Communion we pray for the Diocese of Sialkot - The Church of Pakistan; The Rt. Revd. Alwin John Samuel, Bishop. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers**.

In the Anglican-Lutheran-Moravian cycle, we pray for Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministries Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership; Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, Ecumenical Officer, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the School of Theology at Moravian University. God of Love, **Hear our prayers**.

Versicles & Responses

Officiant

In our Diocesan cycle, we pray for Archdeacon Ruth Monette (Westminster) ; St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver - The Revd Patrick Blaney & The Revd Shawn Bullock; Salal & Cedar Watershed Discipleship Ministry – The Revd Laurel Dykstra. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In this Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for John our Archbishop; Stephanie, our Priest; Bishop Benny and the people of Northern Philippines; our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, in Lubon. We pray for all in need in our community, remembering especially Robert R., Susan S., and any others you wish to name, either silently or aloud. God of Love, **Hear our prayers.**

Grant that these prayers, O God, may be enfleshed by our commitment not only to pray them, but also to live them in your Son's name.

Amen.

The Collect

Officiant

Holy God, fill us with compassion and respect for all people, and empower us for the work of ministry whether near or far away; that like your servant Harriet Bedell, we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, and by giving up ourselves to your service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant

Believing in the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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,
and 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 Sending Forth

Deacon (or Officiant)

Let us go forth into the night, rejoicing
in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Officiant

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

Amen.