

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

Psalm 95.7-8

Welcome

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

In Christ, God bridges the distance between us and the Creator, and between one another.

The season of Lent invites us to reflect on those places in us that are broken: places where we are in need of God's love poured out. We are called to reflect on those places in our relationships and our communities where there is brokenness and a need for God's reconciling love. And we are called to reflect on our world and the places where there is brokenness and a need for a new and right relationship. As we reflect, we do so with contrite but hopeful hearts, trusting in God's steadfast love and infinite mercy.

VISITORS *Welcome!* We are delighted that you have joined us for worship. Please consider signing our guest book, so we may have a record of your visit.

COMMUNION All are invited to receive Communion.

The sacrament will be offered in both kinds (bread and the common cup) but be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion. Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are also welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. This is signified by folding your hands across your chest as you approach the presider.

Service is based on the Book of Alternative Services and the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Islands

Presider & Preacher:

The Venerable Craig Hiebert

Pianist:

Marianne Robinson

Note: in the service order, words set in ***bold italic type*** are said by the congregation.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The community prays in silence.

COLLECT FOR RECONCILIATION

O God, by your Word you marvellously carry out the work of reconciliation: Grant that in our Lenten fast we may be devoted to you with all our hearts, and united with one another in prayer and holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Rivendell Community, Episcopal Church USA

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17

PSALM 103. 8-18

⁸ You are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹ ***You will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger for ever.***

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹ ***For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.***

¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our sins from us.

¹³ ***As parents care for their children,
so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.***

¹⁴ For you yourself know whereof we are made;
you remember that we are but dust.

¹⁵ ***Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;***

¹⁶ when the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

¹⁷ ***But your merciful goodness endures for ever on those who fear you,
and your righteousness on children's children;***

¹⁸ on those who keep the covenant
and remember the commandments and do them.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6. 1–6, 16–21

Before the Gospel is read:

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

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew. ***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

After the Gospel is read:

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

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

REFLECTION

Silence is kept for reflection.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

***Most holy and merciful Father,
we confess to you, to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.***

The presider continues,

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, and the ashes are applied to the forehead of each person with the following words:

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire ashes have received them, the presider leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession, all kneeling:

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

OFFERTORY HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (508)

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Holy One, we raise our hearts and voices in thanksgiving for all the good gifts of your creation that send your promise of new life. Holy One, we give you thanks for the gift of your son, Jesus, who reconciles us to you and to each other. We give you thanks for the Holy Spirit, who draws us together and helps us in our walk with Jesus. May we honour you and each other in receiving these gifts, by using them in service to you and our neighbours.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord is with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Worship and praise belong to you, maker of light and darkness. Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home. In Christ enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in your creation. We who by Christ’s power follow the way of the Cross, sharing the joy of his obedience, now offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, 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."

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator of all.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

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 for ever. Amen.

Silence is kept after the Lord's Prayer.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

He whose cross is a sign of hope for many is present in this bread.
He whose death brings healing to our world is present in this wine.

Here is Christ coming to us in bread and wine.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

The congregation sits or kneels, as the greeters invite rows to receive the bread and wine.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of compassion, ***through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Forty Days and Forty Nights (175)

1. Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:
2. burning heat throughout the day,
bitter cold when light has fled,
prowling beasts around your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.
3. Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will,
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?
4. So if Satan, pressing hard,
soul and body would destroy:
Christ who conquered, be our guard;
give to us the victor's joy.
5. Saviour, may we hear your voice—
keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice
at the eternal Eastertide.

DISMISSAL

Go from this place with the cross on your hearts.

We will empty ourselves with Christ for the life of the world.

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