

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul

February 22nd 2026

Home Church Connections Service

First Sunday in Lent



(Temptation of Christ, Rembrandt, commons.wikimedia.org)

“Nourishing faith and community”

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 with thy spirit.

Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal one,
Have mercy upon us.

**Holy God,
Holy and mighty,**

**Holy immortal one,
Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal one,
Have mercy upon us.

Let us pray,
Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to

the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not hide my iniquity;

I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’,
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of might waters
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding-place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — sin was indeed the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered,

'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God,

throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon: *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Musical Interlude: **Light Serene of Holy Glory** (Text: St Athenogenes 296 ad. Music; Stacy Plays Hymns 2025. Used by permission as stated on website stacyplayshymns.com)

Announcements

Prayer for our tithes and offering

Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine.

All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Amen.

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And of all things visible and invisible:**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; Very God, of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; Through whom all things were made: Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, The Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

Come unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11. 28.*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3. 16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins: not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2. 1, 2*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

(Silence is kept)

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter

serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the

Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Qu'Appelle, Bishop Helen Kennedy; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for St Georges Cadboro Bay, The Rev. Christine Conkin

In our parish we pray for:

Dorothy Barnes, William Bates, Ann Barry, Cindy Bourgeois, Caleb Bourgeois, Cohen Bourgeois, Keith Brandsma & Keiko Hoshino, Doug & Bev Bowen, Jan Brister, and, with loving memory, Myrna Bennett.

In our community we pray for the Rainbow Kitchen.

For the month of February, we pray for gifts of leadership in music.

If you are visiting St. Peter and St. Paul, welcome!

We welcome saints, seekers and sinners as we live into a life in Christ, learning about and from one another as we worship God together. Christ binds us together in love through our diversity. If you are comfortable, please give us your name and address so we can add you to our weekly prayer list. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul
1379 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3R4



ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

Bishop The Rt. Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee
Rector The Rev. Gail Rodger 250-507-9941
Rector's Warden John Ducker
People's Warden Jan Brister
Organist Lawrence Surges

Safe Church Liaison Karen Hogg safechurch@stpeterandpaul.ca

Envelope Secretary Lynda Delaney givings@stpeterandpaul.ca

Parish Office Hours: by appointment only.

Office Phone: 250-386-6833



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E-mail: admin@stpeterandpaul.ca

Website: www.stpeterandpaul.ca

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