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Bishop

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Diocese of Islands and Inlets

April 4, 2026

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Service of Light



The parish of St Peter Anglican Church and is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Ligwi'da'xw people: the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and Kwiakah First Nations; the unceded traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nation and the unceded traditional territory of the Homalco First Nation. We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here; one based on honour and respect. We pray that we may live more deeply into the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

April 4, 2026—The Great Vigil of Easter

Service of Light

Leader: David Fitzsimmons

Dear friends in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of the Lord.
We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries;
we are confident
that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

Father,
we share in the light of your glory
through your Son, the light of the world.
Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Preparation of the Candle - Rev. Stephanie Wood

1 By his holy	1
2 and glorious wounds	4 2 5
3 may Christ our Lord	
4 guard us	3
5 and keep us. Amen.	

Leader: David Fitzsimmons

1.

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

2.

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

3.

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Other candles and lamps in the church may now be lighted. The paschal candle is placed in its stand in the middle of the sanctuary or near the lectern. The deacon, standing near the candle, sings or says the Exultet.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved our forebears: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Accept this Easter candle. May it always dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

After the Exultet, if candles are being held, they may be extinguished. The paschal candle may burn at all services from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost.

Liturgy of the Word

Introduction: David Fitzsimmons

Dear friends in Christ,
let us now listen attentively to the word of God,
recalling how he saved his people throughout history
and in the fullness of time,
sent his own Son to be our Redeemer.

First Reading: [Exodus 14:10-15.1](#)

Prayer:

God of steadfast love,
your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day.
By the power of your mighty arm
you once delivered your chosen people
from slavery under Pharaoh,
to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations
by the water of baptism.
Grant that all the peoples of the earth
may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham,
and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Reading: [Isaiah 54.5-14](#)

Prayer:

O God,
you led your ancient people
in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
Grant that we who serve you now on earth,
may come to the joy of that heavenly Jerusalem,
where you wipe away all tears,
and where your saints for ever sing your praise.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Third Reading: [Baruch 3.9-15](#)

Prayer:

Creator of the universe, Source of all light,

teach us to hold fast to the ways of wisdom,
that we may live for every in the radiance of your glory.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our saviour.

Fourth Reading: [Ezekiel 36:24-28](#)

Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God,
in the paschal mystery you established
the new covenant of reconciliation.
Grant that all who are born again in baptism
may show forth in their lives
what they profess by their faith.
Grant this in the name Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fifth Reading: [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

Prayer:

Living God,
by the Passover of your Son
you have brought us out of sin into righteousness,
and out of death into life.
Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit
the will and power to proclaim you to all the world;
through Jesus Christ our lord.

Sixth Reading: [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

Prayer:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery.
By the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation.
Let the whole world see and know
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect of the Day

O God,
creator of heaven and earth,
as the crucified body of your dear Son
was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath,
so may we await with him the coming of the third day,
and rise with him to newness of life;
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Proclamation of The Word:

Let us listen for the word of God in Holy Scripture

All: Our hearts and minds are open.

Reading of the Day: [Romans 6.3-11](#)

Psalm: Psalm 114 (Page 862)

Celebrant: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to:

Gospel: [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

Sermon: The Rev. Stephanie Wood

We keep a few moments of silent reflection following the sermon.

Intercessions: Easter

*(In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying,
"Hear us, Lord of glory!")*

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian

love, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer 1

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is indeed right that we should praise you,
gracious God,
for you created all things.
You formed us in your own image.
In the diversity of creation, you made 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.

People **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, hosanna in the highest.**

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 in 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 all
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 your, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

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 forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Let us Pray:

Prayer after Communion:

Giver of all, we are nourished with your Easter sacraments
Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith,
that we may be witnesses to the resurrection
and show your glory to all the world,
in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

Blessing

Dismissal

