

The Anglican Parish of  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
April 12<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Home Church Connections Service  
Second Sunday of Easter



“Nourishing faith and community”

## Words of Welcome

### The Gathering of the Community

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

**We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Let us pray,

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A reading from the book of Acts.

*But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.*

*‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,*

*“I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.*

*For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.*

*You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”*

*‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his*

*throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,*

*“He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”*

*This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord;

**I have no good apart from you.’**

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,  
**in whom is all my delight.**

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;  
**their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names upon my lips.**

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
**you hold my lot.**

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
**I have a goodly heritage.**

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
**in the night also my heart instructs me.**

I keep the Lord always before me;  
**because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
**my body also rests secure.**

For you do not give me up to Sheol,  
**or let your faithful one see the Pit.**  
You show me the path of life.  
**In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from The First Letter of Peter

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

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

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

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

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

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'*

*But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'*

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Announcements

### **Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say

**I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People  
The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

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.**

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.**

The Blessing

The blessing of the Holy Trinity; the loving Creator, who is the source of all being, of Jesus Christ who is the love incarnate in the world, and the ever present Holy Spirit, hold you and surround 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

**In the world wide communion**, we pray for The Church in the Province of the West Indies; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Territory of the People Anglican Church, Bishop Clara Plamondon; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

**In our region**, we pray for St. Philip Oak Bay, The Rev. Allan Doersken.

**In our parish** we pray for: Jean Smith, Rosemary Smith, Roland Stacey, Nathaniel Sukhdeo & Ann Desgagne, Lawrence Surges & Hilary Mackey, Frances Thomasset, Reilly Thorne, and Betty Ann Townsend.

**In our community** we pray for Neighbourhood House.

For the month of April, we pray for the Soapy Sundries Drive.

We pray for those in our parish preparing for confirmation on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm at Christ Church Cathedral: William Bates; Roland Stacey; Julie Williams.

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 250-812-9506  
Organist Lawrence Surges

Safe Church Liaison Karen Hogg [safechurch@stpeterandpaul.ca](mailto:safechurch@stpeterandpaul.ca)

Envelope Secretary Lynda Delaney [givings@stpeterandpaul.ca](mailto:givings@stpeterandpaul.ca)

Parish Office Hours: by appointment only.

Office Phone: 250-386-6833



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E-mail: [admin@stpeterandpaul.ca](mailto:admin@stpeterandpaul.ca)

Website: [www.stpeterandpaul.ca](http://www.stpeterandpaul.ca)

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