

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
May 10th 2026
Home Church Connections Service
Sixth 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,

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 17:22-31

A reading from the book of Acts.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:7-18

Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt-offerings;
I will pay you my vows,
those that my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
I cried aloud to him,

and he was extolled with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,

the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened;

he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer

or removed his steadfast love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved

through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

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

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

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 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!

This past week marked a new remembrance and old remembrance.

Red Dress Day is held every year on May 5th in Canada. It is a national day of remembrance for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited People (MMIWG2S+). To honor those who have been lost, we hang red dresses in trees, on front porches or in windows or wear red dress pins.

We remember those Missing and Murdered Women and Girls and Two Spirited People who suffered. We take time to remember they are Our Relations, as all creation is related. We remember their family members and friends and the heaviness of loss and grief that they have carried for so many years.

May 8th, 1945, marked the end of five years and eight months of conflict in Europe, part of the most brutal and bloody war in human history.

The unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany saw the end of a legacy of unimaginable suffering - millions of soldiers and civilians killed, cities laid waste and the mass extermination of 6 million Jews, condemned under Adolf Hitler's "final solution".

In Canada over one million served - one in every eleven citizens. Tragically 44,090 would never return home. Another 55,000 would come home maimed by wounds and an untold number would also bear deep emotional scars until the day they died.

Canada entered into a new era after May 8th, 1945. Happiness returned to the nation but it is a happiness forever tinged with pain and sadness etched by the memories of faraway places called the North Atlantic Run, Normandy, Dieppe, the Ruhr Valley or Ortona.

A Prayer for True Peace,

Almighty God from whom true peace comes, open our minds and hearts to a true love of peace. Guide those who are in authority to listen well to your wisdom, to work only for justice and charity, which is the only true path to peace in the world. May your kingdom come so that the earth will be filled with your knowledge and your love and your peace. Amen.

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

In the world wide communion, we pray for The Anglican Church of Australia; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces, The Right Rev. Scott McCaig; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for The Abbey Church, The Rev. Matthew W. Humphrey.

In our parish we pray for: Ann & Ned Easton, Victor Flett Sr., Victor Flett Jr., Sandra Flynn, Pat Fraser, Gail Gill, Elaine & Al Hay, and Karen Hogg & Ross Benton.

In our community we pray for the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

For the month of May, we pray for the ministry of St. Peter & St. Paul to Selkirk Seniors Village.

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.

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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