

The Anglican Parish of

St. Peter and St. Paul

May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026

Celebration of Ascension Sunday



“Nourishing faith and community.”

## Prelude

Words of Welcome *(Please stand as clergy enters)*

## The Gathering of the Community

### Opening Hymn: CP436 I Bind Unto Myself Today

*(Music trad Irish St. Patrick's Breastplate; Text Patrick of Ireland (389?-461?); tr. Cecil Frances Alexander (1815-1895), public domain).*

*I bind unto myself today  
the strong name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three-in-One, and One-in-Three.*

*I bind this day to me forever,  
by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,  
his baptism in the Jordan river,  
his death on cross for my salvation.  
His bursting from the spiced tomb,  
his riding up the heavenly way,  
his coming at the day of doom,  
I bind unto myself today.*

*I bind unto myself today  
the virtues of the starlit heaven,  
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,  
the whiteness of the moon at even,  
the flashing of the lightning free,  
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,  
the stable earth, the deep salt sea  
around the old eternal rocks.*

*I bind unto myself today  
the power of God to hold and lead,  
his eye to watch, his might to stay,  
his ear to hearken to my need,  
the wisdom of my God to teach,  
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,  
the word of God to give me speech,  
his heavenly host to be my guard.*

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

*I bind unto myself the name,  
the strong name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three-in-One, and One-in-Three,  
of whom all nature hath creation,  
eternal Father, Spirit, Word.  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;  
salvation is of Christ the Lord.*

**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!**

Gloria (sung)

*(music: Mass of Christ the Savior Dan Schutte Oregon: Catholic Press 2009  
One Licence)*

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest  
And on earth, peace on earth  
Peace to people of goodwill.  
We praise you, we bless You  
We adore you, we glorify You  
We give you thanks,**

**For your great glory.  
Lord God heavenly King,  
O God Almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
You take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.  
You take away the sin of the world,  
Receive our prayer.  
You are seated at the right hand  
The right hand of the Father  
Have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One  
You alone are the Lord.  
You alone are the most High,  
Jesus Christ.  
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory  
Of God the Father.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest  
And on earth, peace on earth  
Peace to people of good will.**

**Amen, Amen.**

Let us pray,  
Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son  
Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in

heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; 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 1:6-14

A reading from the book of Acts.

*So when [the apostles] had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'*

*Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;

**let those who hate him flee before him.**

As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;

**as wax melts before the fire,**

**let the wicked perish before God.**

But let the righteous be joyful;

**let them exult before God;**

**let them be jubilant with joy.**

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

**lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—**

his name is the Lord—  
**be exultant before him.**

Father of orphans and protector of widows  
**is God in his holy habitation.**

God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
**he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

O God, when you went out before your people,  
**when you marched through the wilderness,**  
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
**at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
**you restored your heritage when it languished;**  
your flock found a dwelling in it;  
**in your goodness, O God, you provided for  
the needy.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery  
ordeal that is taking place among you to test you,  
as though something strange were happening to  
you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing  
Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad  
and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you*

*are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.*

*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: CP656 She Comes Sailing on the Wind

*(Text and melody: Gordon Light (1944- ); arr. Andrew Donaldson (1951- ))*

**Refrain:**

***She comes sailing on the wind,  
Her wings flashing in the sun,***

*On a journey just begun, she flies on.  
And in the passage of her flight,  
Her song rings out through the night,  
Full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

*Silent waters rocking  
on the morning of our birth,  
Like an empty cradle waiting to be filled,  
And from the heart of God  
the Spirit moved upon the earth,  
Like a mother breathing life into her child.*

*Many were the dreamers  
whose eyes were given sight  
when the Spirit filled their dreams  
with life and form.  
Deserts turned to gardens,  
broken hearts found new delight,  
And then down the ages still she flew on. **Refrain***

*To a gentle girl in Galilee  
a gentle breeze she came,  
A whisper softly calling in the dark;  
the promise of a child of peace  
whose reign would never end,  
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.*

*Flying to the river,  
she waited circling high  
Above the child now grown so full of grace.  
As he rose up from the water,  
she swept down from the sky,  
And she carried him away in her embrace. **Refrain***

*Long after the deep darkness  
that fell upon the world,  
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,  
the Spirit touched the earth again,  
again her wings unfurled, bringing  
life in wind and fire as she flew on. **Refrain***

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11

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**

*After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked  
up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come;  
glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,  
since you have given him authority over all people,  
to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.*

*And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.*

*'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Celtic Alleluia (sung)

(Fintan O'Carroll and Chris Walker OCP Publications One License)

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Sermon *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Musical Moment for Reflection

Announcements

*(Please stand)*

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 Celebration of the Eucharist

#### Preparation of the Gifts

### Hymn: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

*(David Evans 1986 Thankyou Music CCLI license adapted for inclusive language)*

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord,*

*The holy One, is here;*

*Come bow before him now*

*With reverence and fear*

*In him no sin is found*

*We stand on holy ground.*

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord,*

*The holy One, is here.*

*Be still, for the glory of the Lord*

*Is shining all around;*

*She burns with holy fire,*

*With splendour she is crowned:*

*How awesome is the sight*

*Our radiant light of light!*

*Be still, for the glory of the Lord*

*Is shining all around.*

*Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place:  
They come to cleanse and heal,  
To minister their grace -  
No work too hard for them.  
In faith receive from them.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.*

### Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray,  
Source of all joy, receive our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving. Keep us in the love of Christ and  
bring us to the vision of his glory; through the same  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Our offering plate is not passed through the pews nor placed on  
the altar. Instead it symbolically resides by the font near the back  
of the church, a calling to all the baptized to be part of the  
kingdom in the practice of committed giving. If you would like to  
donate but missed the offering plate on your way in,  
it remains available briefly after the service.)*

### Eucharistic Prayer (Please stand)

*(Eucharistic prayer #3 using musical setting CP 719- 721 The Great  
Thanksgiving 1)*

The Lord be 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 our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for through Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection, appeared to the disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. Therefore, we praise you with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

(sung)

**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.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love you have made known to  
us in creation;

in calling Israel to be your people;

in your Word spoken through the prophets; and  
above all

in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him

to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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 for the 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith  
(sung)

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

(sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

*(Langdon VU960)*

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

**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 Breaking of the Bread

Lord we died with you on the cross,  
**Now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb.  
**Now we share in your resurrection.**  
**Live in us, that we may live in you.**

The table of love is offered for all people. It is Christ who invites us to meet love incarnate here, and all are welcome.

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### The Communion

*(Communion is offered at three locations in the following order: station one is at the back of the church near the candles for those who prefer to stand and/or are physically challenged by steps without railings; station two, brought to the pew; station three: at the altar rail)*

Instrumental musical selections are played during communion

Prayer after Communion *(please stand)*

Let us pray,  
Eternal God, may we who share Christ's banquet be  
one with him as he is one with you. We ask this in  
the name of Jesus Christ, the risen and ascended  
Lord. **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.**

### Musical Sending: Love Love Love Love

*(Tune: Rose, Rose Rose, public domain)*

*Love Love Love Love*

*The gospel in a word is love*

*Love your neighbor as your brother (or sister)*

*For God is love*

*Peace Peace Peace Peace*

*The gospel in a word is peace*

*Peace that passes understanding*

*Go live in peace*

*Joy Joy Joy Joy*

*The gospel in a word is joy*

*Joy that fills to overflowing*

*Go share the joy*

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude

## Weekly Cycles of Prayer

**In the world wide communion**, we pray for The Church of Bangladesh; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Caledonia - Bishop David Lehmann; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

**In our region**, we pray for St Barnabas, The Rev. Dr. Travis O'Brian.

**In our parish** we pray for: Barbara Anne Holt, Barbara Hooper, Graham & Licette How, Judy Ingram, Fay & Roy Johnson, Fred King, Rhonda Koch, and Rob Bagley & Teresa Krause.

**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.

Welcome to all those visiting us at  
St. Peter and St. Paul.

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.

Washrooms are found in the hall, up the stairs, on the right.

#### 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  
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