

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
July 5th 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Nourishing Faith and Community

Words of Welcome

The Gathering of the Community

In this time and from many places we gather on the ancestral lands the Lekwungen speaking people, of our Esquimalt, Songhees and Coast Salish First Nation companions.

From many places and peoples we come to pray.

In this time and from many places we gather in the name of the living God.

We meet in the presence of Jesus Christ, risen and alive.

In this time and in this space we gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages.

In this time and space heaven and earth are one.

In this time and space we are not alone, but one in Christ.

Knit together in the unity of the Spirit.

In this time and in all places, we are hallowed, expectant, one people in God.

In the name of the Holy and Blessed One, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray,

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of your children we do also for him. Give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, but lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

So [Eliezer] said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down

to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.'

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

*'May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.'*

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had

done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 45:10-17

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
**forget your people and your father's house,
and the king will desire your beauty.**

Since he is your lord, bow to him;
**the people of Tyre will seek your favour with gifts,
the richest of the people with all kinds of wealth.**

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;
**in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.**
With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.

In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.

I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you for ever and ever.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ.

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we

wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Prayers of Confession and Assurance

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; welcoming of sinners so let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

Holy and gracious One: forgive our sins.

The ones we can remember, and those we have forgotten.

Forgive the wrong actions we have committed, and the right actions we have avoided.

Forgive the times we have been weak, unkind or judgmental and failed to live out your kingdom call to justice and love.

Forgive the lies we have told, the truths we have avoided and the pain we have caused others.

Creator of all, have mercy on us, and make us whole.

(Early Irish (adapted from A Celtic Primer p. 95))

May Almighty God,

who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

At peace with one another united as one we declare:

We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, his Son.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

We believe and trust in the Three in One.

(from Creating Uncommon Worship by Richard Giles)

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 and Dismissal

The grace of God uphold you, the peace of God surround you, the love of God flow from you and be your strength as you go into the world to love and serve;

The blessing of God be upon you today and forever.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

In the world wide communion, we pray for Anglican Church of Chile; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Kootenay, Bishop Lynne McNaughton; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for Two Saints, The Rev Heather Robinson.

In our parish we pray for: Gail Gill, Elaine & Al Hay, Karen Hogg & Ross Benton, Barbara Anne Holt, Barbara Hooper, Graham & Licette How, Judy Ingram, and Faye & Roy Johnson.

In our community we pray for the Rainbow Kitchen.

For the month of July, we pray for the Coffee Ministry.

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
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