

St. Helen's Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of New Westminster

The Feast of Mary the Virgin
August 16, 2026



Presider: The Ven. Richard Leggett
Preacher: The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss
Deacon: The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss
Music Director: Dale Throness

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

All Stand

OPENING HYMN Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness CP 385

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that we gather on the ancestral territory of the Musqueam peoples. May the Spirit's unifying fire empower us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbours as ourselves, and to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

GREETING

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
creator of heaven and earth,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

As your living Word, eternal in heaven,
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,
so may the light of your love be born in us
to fill our hearts with joy.
Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God.
Blessed be God for ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**
**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory, in the Highest Glory

CP 366

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mighty One,
whose power does not reside in fleshless lonely purity,
whose word is enwombed at the heart of creation:
we praise you for Mary,
whose hospitable Yes made a place for Love;
whose song of transformation makes thrones and rulers tremble;
whose prayer is heard because she is one of us;
through Jesus Christ, Mary's Child. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7.10-15

Hepsi Chand

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

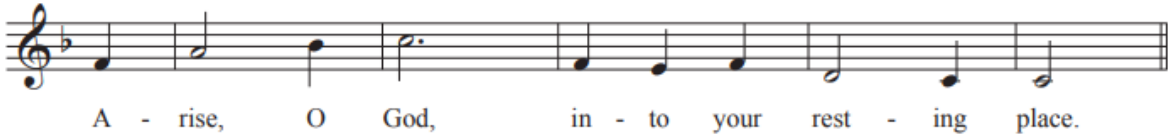
Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 132.6-10, 13-14

Refrain:



"The Ark! We heard it was in Ephratah;
we found it in the fields of Jearim.
Let us go to your dwelling place, O God;
let us fall upon our knees before your footstool." **R.**

Arise, O God, into your resting place,
you and the ark of your strength.
Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;
let your faithful people sing with joy.
For your servant David's sake,
do not turn away the face of your anointed. **R.**

"If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies
that I shall teach them,
their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."
For I have chosen Zion,
I have desired her for my habitation. **R.**

A reading from the Letter to the Galatians.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (2x)

Choir:

*Blessed are you, O Lord of creation,
revealing your kingdom to the humble and weak.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (2x)

THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY

Luke 1.46-55

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia (2x)

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss

Please join in singing.

**I believe in God almighty, Author of all things that be,
maker of the earth and heavens, keeper of the sky and sea.
I believe in God's Son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary born to bring abundant life.**

**I believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified,
taken from the cross, was buried – true life there had truly died.
I believe that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.**

**I believe in God's own Spirit, bonding all the saints within
one church, catholic, and holy, where forgiveness frees from sin,
in the body's resurrection, for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting: this the faith that I have claimed.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

INTERCESSIONS, PETITIONS, AND THANKSGIVINGS

Anne Bonnycastle

Please stand, sit or kneel.

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

Just as the archangel Gabriel greeted Mary in peace,
so do we greet one another as messengers of that same peace.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, the Congregation is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

The God Whom Earth and Sea and Sky

CP 267

Please remain standing until communion.

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray.

God of mercy,

receive all we offer you this day.

May we share with the Virgin Mary

the joys of communion with the Word made flesh,

and live with you in unending love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

May God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up

Let us give thanks to God our Creator

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You moulded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honour is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

**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 for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

These are the gifts of God for all God's people.
Thanks be to God.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

CP 747

COMMUNION

All who seek Christ and are drawn to this holy table are invited to come forth to receive Holy Communion. Dipping the bread (intinction) into the wine is not permitted. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please indicate such by placing your right hand over your heart.

COMMUNION HYMNS

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Heavenly Message**

**Choir
CP 269**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of grace,
**today we raise our voices
to magnify your holy name,
and, in our own generation, to call her blessed
who became the mother of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
May we who have shared this holy food
continue, with her, in your glorious reign of justice,
founded and established in Jesus Christ our Lord.
We ask this in his name. 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.**

BLESSING

Friends of the risen Christ, be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak.
Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of the living God: the Source of all being,
the eternal Word and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth bearing the incarnate Word of salvation.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN My Soul Proclaims Your Glory, Lord

CP 363

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated for the postlude. The community disperses in silence. In respect of those who may linger in contemplation, conversation is reserved for the narthex.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. HELEN'S

Join us for our Sunday Worship on August 23, 2026

Book of Common Prayer | at 8:00 am

This is a simple yet deep spoken celebration of the Eucharist using the traditional Book of Common Prayer.

Choral Eucharist | at 10:00 am

This is a modern Eucharist service, with choral music sung by the St. Helen's Choir.

Welcome to St. Helen's, The Rev. Sebastian Way!

Today we are excited to welcome the Rev. Sebastian Way at St. Helen's as our Interim Priest-in-Charge! A welcome luncheon will follow the service, to which you are all invited.

Contemplative Prayer

Our Contemplative Prayer sessions will take a break for the month of August.

Office Administrator Update

The Wardens, on behalf of St. Helen's Anglican Church, would like to thank everyone who applied for the recent Office Administrator position. We have now made an appointment to that position, but we appreciate all of those who took the time to submit an application!

New Email Address for St. Helen's Office

We have updated our email!

Please reach the church office at our new address:
office@sthelensvancouver.com

Volunteers Today

Intercessor: Anne Bonnycastle

Readers: Hepsi Chand, Kyle Taylor

Lay Administrators: Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, Shawn de Raaf

Counter: Dale O'Brien

Zoom: Kathy Li

Volunteers Next Week

Intercessor: David Van Blarcom

Readers: Matt Powell, Shawn de Raaf

Lay Administrators: Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, Shawn de Raaf

Counter: Dale O'Brien

Zoom: Tony Hodgson

Next Week's Scripture Readings

The First Reading: Exodus 1.8-2.10

The Psalm: Psalm 124

The Second Reading: Romans 12.1-8

The Gospel: Matthew 16.13-20

Are You Interested in Education for Ministry (EfM)?

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a small group learning experience where prayer, weekly reading, and group work help our understanding of our faith grow and illuminate the questions we live with today.

EfM is intended for the ordinary church member (adult) who is curious about exploring their faith and making sense of it in a 21st-century world. Curiosity and the ability to live with difference are important attitude to bring with you.

INFORMATION NIGHT via ZOOM for those interested in exploring Online EfM – **Thursday, August 20, at 7 pm.** End no later than 8:30 pm, allowing for questions.

To register and receive a ZOOM invitation, please contact Paula Porter Leggett at **2rev2pl@gmail.com** no later than **August 19**. Looking forward to meeting you there!

Intercessor Prayer Requests

Prayers for:

Paul

Ruth

Lois

Diane

How to Contribute to St. Helen's Financially

We deeply appreciate financial contributions to our shared congregational life and mission. The best ways to donate are:

- Set up a Pre-Authorized Donation - simply send an email to sthelenswpg@gmail.com to get started or change your amount
- Donate via Interac e-transfer to sthelenswpg@gmail.com
- Scan the QR code to the right or visit <https://sthelensvancover.com/give> to donate via credit card
- Use one of the envelopes available at the back of the church by the offering plate to donate via cheques or cash



Office Hours

Tuesday, 09:00am-5:00pm
Wednesday, 09:00am-5:00pm
Friday, 09:00am-5:00pm

Connect with us:

St Helen's Office : office@sthelensvancover.com | 604-224-0212
Priest-in-Charge : **The Rev. Sebastian Way** | rector@sthelensvancover.com
Deacon : **The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss** | deacon@sthelensvancover.com