



# St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

## Season of Creation - Week 2

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - September 13, 2026

"Let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5. 24

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## Welcome

*We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.*

*The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we.*

***Land Acknowledgement, as a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.***

***The Collection Plate*** *has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. During the Offertory hymn the plate will be placed on the Altar where it will be blessed. Please also consider one of the other available means of giving regularly: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or monthly direct debit donations via the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance program - details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: [www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate](http://www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate)).*

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## Flower Dedications

If you would like to schedule a  
***Celebration or Memorial Flower Arrangement***  
at the next opportunity, please contact  
the office: [admin@stmarysoakbay.ca](mailto:admin@stmarysoakbay.ca)

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## 10:00am Service

*From the Book of Alternative Services*

|                       |                        |            |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Minister of Welcome:  | Mary Lawrence          | Pianist:   | Janet Yonge      |
| Presider & Preacher:  | The Rev'd Dyan Davison | Musicians: | St. Mary Singers |
| Eucharistic Minister: | Christina Wilkinson    |            |                  |

*Please note that this service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending in person, you are acknowledging and consent to the fact that the video images of you may appear online.*

*In the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

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## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

### PRELUDE

*I Do Believe, James Southbridge*

### WELCOME

### HYMN

*All Creatures of Our God and King (355)*

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. All creatures of our God and King,<br>lift up your voices, let us sing:<br>alleluia, alleluia!<br>Bright burning sun and golden beams,<br>pale silver moon that gently gleams,<br>alleluia, alleluia!              | 4. Earth ever fertile, day by day<br>unfold your blessings on our way,<br>O sing now, alleluia!<br>All flowers and fruits that in you grow,<br>God's glory let them also show:<br>alleluia, alleluia!      |
| 2. Great rushing winds and breezes soft,<br>you clouds that ride the heavens aloft,<br>O sing now, alleluia!<br>Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice,<br>stars nightly shining, find a voice:<br>alleluia, alleluia! | 5. All you with mercy in your heart,<br>forgiving others, take your part,<br>alleluia, alleluia!<br>All you that pain and sorrow bear,<br>sing praise and cast on God your care:<br>alleluia, alleluia!    |
| 3. Swift flowing water, pure and clear,<br>make music for your Lord to hear,<br>alleluia, alleluia!<br>Fire, so intense and fiercely bright,<br>you give to us both warmth and light,<br>alleluia, alleluia!          | 6. And even you, most gentle death,<br>waiting to hush our final breath,<br>O sing now, alleluia!<br>You lead back home the child of God,<br>for Christ our Lord that way has trod:<br>alleluia, alleluia! |

7. Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness,  
    alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:  
    alleluia, alleluia!

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

***And also with you***

## CENTRING STILLNESS

*Silence is kept.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord of the deep waters, ***you call us from the safety of the shore to an adventure of the Spirit: open wide our arms to embrace the world you dare us to serve; through Jesus Christ your living Word. Amen.***

*The congregation sits*

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## THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

*A Statement on the Lectionary Readings*

*Throughout Christian history, references to “the Jews” in scripture—particularly in John and Acts—have been used to perpetuate negative stereotypes and falsely assign blame for the death of Jesus. These references gloss over significant distinctions among religious leaders, such as Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees, and obscure the fact that Jesus and his disciples were themselves Jews. As Christians, we confess and lament the history of anti-Judaism associated with these texts. We renounce the evils of violence and discrimination against Jewish people. We strive for mutual understanding, respect, and partnership with Jewish neighbors and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation among people of all faiths.*

## READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Exodus 14. 19-31, Bob Gill

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The

Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

<sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Holy word, holy wisdom.

***Thanks be to God.***

#### **PSALM 114**

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

***Judah became the sanctuary of the Lord  
and Israel the dominion of God.***

The sea beheld it and fled;  
Jordan turned and went back.

***The mountains skipped like rams,  
and the little hills like young sheep.***

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?  
O Jordan, that you turned back?

***You mountains, that you skipped like rams?  
You little hills like young sheep?***

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

*who turned the hard rock into a pool of water  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

**READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS**

Romans 14. 1-12,

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.

<sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.' <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***Thanks be to God.***

## GOSPEL HYMN

*Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels (494)*

1. Not for tongues of heaven's angels,  
not for wisdom to discern,  
not for faith that masters mountains,  
for this better gift we yearn:  
*Refrain: may love be ours, Lord;  
may love be ours.  
May love be ours, O Lord.*
2. Love is humble, love is gentle,  
love is tender, true, and kind;  
love is gracious, ever patient,  
generous of heart and mind: R
3. Never jealous, never selfish,  
love will not rejoice in wrong;  
never boastful nor resentful,  
love believes and suffers long: R
4. In the day this world is fading,  
faith and hope will play their part;  
but when Christ is seen in glory,  
love shall reign in every heart: R

## GOSPEL

Matthew 18. 21-35

*Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:*

God is with you.

***And also with you.***

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew.

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

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

<sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt.

<sup>31</sup> When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

The Gospel of Christ.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

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## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### SERMON

### ANTHEM

*For Love Shall be Our Song*, Douglas E. Wagner

### AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

*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 FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Bob Gill

*The congregation stands, sits, or kneels.*

Lord, as you gave your life for us,

*help us to give our lives to you.*

*In your prayers this week remember those in need of healing and care. In our diocese of islands and inlets pray for Anna, our Bishop; John, our Metropolitan; Chris, our National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop; and Shane, our Primate; pray for St. Dunstan, Gordon Head and Two Saints Ministry, Cordova Bay and their clergy; pray for the Diocese of New Westminster, and Bishop John Stephens. In the Church further afield, pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Pray for the Students of the Canadian College of Performing Arts, and for the children of the Oak Bay Preschool.*

## PEACE

*The congregation stands*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And also with you.***

*Remaining in our places, we share signs of Peace with those around us.*

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## THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

*For safety, the Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion. Please also consider one of the other means of giving that do not require our volunteers and staff to handle cash and cheques: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or bi-weekly or monthly direct debit donations via our diocesan Electronic Collection Plate (details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: [www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate](http://www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate)).*

### OFFERTORY

*Through the Red Sea Brought at Last (226)*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Through the Red Sea brought at last,<br>alleluia!<br>Egypt's chains behind we cast,<br>alleluia!<br>Deep and wide flows the tide<br>serving us from bondage past, alleluia! | 2. Like the cloud that overhead,<br>alleluia!<br>through the billows Israel led,<br>alleluia!<br>by his tomb Christ makes room,<br>souls restoring from the dead,<br>alleluia! |
| 3. In that cloud and in that sea,<br>alleluia!<br>buried and baptized were we,<br>alleluia!<br>Earthly night brought us light<br>which is ours eternally,<br>alleluia!         |                                                                                                                                                                                |

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, food of the poor, Christ our bread  
Give us a taste of the tender bread from your creation's table  
Bread newly taken from your heart's oven, Food that comforts and nourishes us  
A fraternal loaf that makes us human, Joined hand in hand,  
Working and sharing A warm loaf that makes us a family,  
A sacrament of your body Your wounded people. **Amen.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

## Second Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation

*The congregation remains standing, as they are able.*

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 of all Creation.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*The prayer continues until:*

*Repeat each line after the cantor:*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,'  
God of power and 'might,  
Heaven and earth are full,'  
are full of your glo'ry.***

***Blessed is the one who comes'  
in the name of the 'Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,'  
hosanna in the high'est. 3x***

St Bride Setting, The Iona Community

*The prayer continues until:*

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died***

***Christ is risen***

***Christ will come again***

*The prayer continues until:*

through him, with him, in him  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours, Almighty Father,  
forever and ever. ***Amen.***

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

***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.***

*Silence is held*

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

***We, being many, are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.***

The gifts of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

## THE COMMUNION

*All are invited to receive Communion.*

*The sacrament will be offered in both kinds (bread and the common cup) but be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion. Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are also welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. This is signified by folding your hands across your chest as you approach the presider.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless. (85)*

1. Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless  
your chosen pilgrim flock  
with manna in the wilderness,  
with water from the rock.
2. We would not live by bread alone,  
but by your word of grace,  
in strength of which we travel on  
to our abiding place.
3. Be known to us in breaking bread,  
but do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread  
your table in our heart.
4. Lord, sup with us in love divine;  
your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heav'nly wine,  
be our immortal food.

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# WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The poor of the world are thirsty, For justice and for peace

*Their journey is unending*

*Till hate and oppression cease*

The Lord of heaven is thirst, For justice and for peace

*The Lord's struggle is unending*

*Till hate and oppression cease*

Let the people of God become thirsty, For justice and for peace

*And join the river of justice*

*Till hate and oppression cease. Amen.*

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### GLORY TO GOD

*The congregation stands*

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

### HYMN

Let Streams of Living Justice (575)

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Let streams of living justice<br/>flow down upon the earth;<br/>give freedom's light to captives,<br/>let all the poor have worth.<br/>The hungry's hands are pleading,<br/>the worker's claim their rights,<br/>the mourners long for laughter,<br/>the blinded seek for sight.<br/>Make liberty a beacon,<br/>strike down the iron power;<br/>abolish ancient vengeance:<br/>proclaim your people's hour.</p> | <p>2. For healing of the nations,<br/>for peace that will not end,<br/>for love that makes us lovers,<br/>God grant us grace to mend.<br/>Weave our varied gifts together;<br/>knit our lives as they are spun;<br/>on your loom of time enroll us<br/>till our thread of life is run.<br/>O great Weaver of our fabric,<br/>bind church and world in one;<br/>dye our texture with your radiance,<br/>light our colours with your sun.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3. Your city's built to music;  
we are the stones you seek;  
your harmony is language:  
we are the words you speak.  
Our faith we find in service,  
our hope in other's dreams,  
our love in hand of neighbour:  
our homeland brightly gleams.  
Inscribe our hearts with justice;  
your way – the path untried;  
your truth – the heart of stranger;  
your life – the Crucified.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## POSTLUDE

*O Divine Redeemer, Charles Gounod*

*The musical postlude is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for our encounter with God's Word as it has been experienced this day. You are invited to use this time for reflection, remaining seated.*



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|                           |                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Interim Priest-in-Charge: | The Reverend Jacqueline Stober<br><a href="mailto:jstober@bc.anglican.ca">jstober@bc.anglican.ca</a>              |
| Incumbent:                | The Venerable Craig Hiebert ( <i>on sabbatical</i> )                                                              |
| Priest Associate:         | The Reverend Dyan Davison<br><a href="mailto:associate@stmarysoakbay.ca">associate@stmarysoakbay.ca</a>           |
| Honorary Associate:       | The Reverend Dr John Macquarrie<br><a href="mailto:jmacquarrie@stmarysoakbay.ca">jmacquarrie@stmarysoakbay.ca</a> |
| Parish Administrator:     | Marianne McGahon, 250-598-2212<br><a href="mailto:admin@stmarysoakbay.ca">admin@stmarysoakbay.ca</a>              |