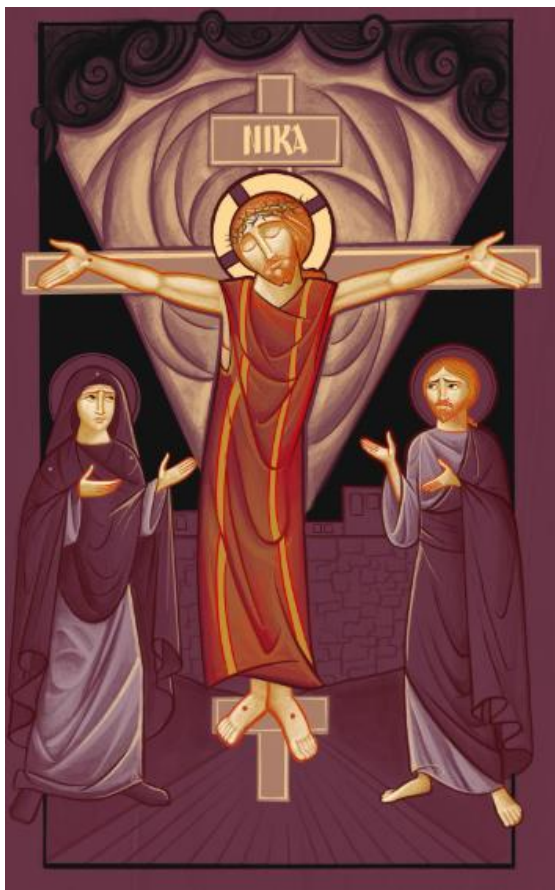


St. Helen's Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of New Westminster

The Feast of the Holy Cross **September 13th, 2026**



Presider: The Rev. Sebastian Way
Preacher: The Rev. Sebastian Way
Music Director: Dale Throness

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN New Songs of Celebration Render CP 316

Please Stand

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

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith:

Consider the birds of the air;
they do not sow or gather into barns,
yet our heavenly Father feeds them.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison

CP 706

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;
they do not toil nor spin,
yet even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
Christe eleison.

Christe eleison

How little faith we have.

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest

CP 702

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
was lifted high upon the cross
that he might draw the whole world to himself,
may we who rejoice in the mystery of our redemption,
have grace to take up our cross and follow him,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please be seated

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Numbers 21.4b-9

Shawn de Raaf

A reading from the Book of Numbers.

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

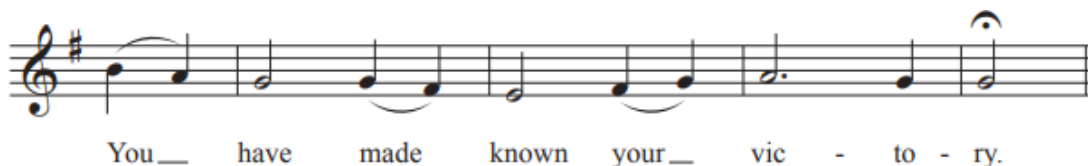
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 98 1-6 *Cantate Domino*

Refrain:



Let us sing a new song to God
who has done marvellous things.
With your right hand and your holy arm
You have won for yourself the victory. **R.**

You have made known your victory;
Your righteousness have you openly shown
in the sight of the nations.
You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **R.**

Shout with joy to God, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to God with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song. **R.**

A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (2x)

Choir:

*“God brings the world to himself,
Now through his Christ reconciling;
He has trusted us with news of redeeming love”*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (2x)

THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY

John 3.13-17

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia (2x)

THE SERMON

The Rev. Sebastian Way

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I Believe in God Almighty

CP 44

Please Stand

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

INTERCESSIONS, PETITIONS, AND THANKSGIVINGS

Liz Hodgson

Please stand, sit or kneel.

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

Please Stand

Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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 Head That Once Was Crowned CP 491

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
Through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation

Blessed be God forever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please Stand

May God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to God.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

THE SANCTUS

CP 726

O God, our creator, you placed us in this world,
but did not leave us to live alone.

You surround us with your wondrous creation

That we might live in harmony with it,
taking only what is necessary to preserve our common life.

Of the world you made a garden for the flourishing of your people,
yet we strayed from your path.

We judged ourselves powerful and mighty,
planting destruction between us and nature,
and creating a world of inequity, imbalance, and injustice.
Countless times, your prophets led us to repentance and new life,
yet we choose to walk in other ways and persist in our selfish error.

In the fulness of time and in your infinite mercy,
you sent us your Son Jesus Christ, the source of new life.
He taught us to live in unity with you,
opening the doors to a new creation:
one reconciled to you and sustained by your love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread.
Having given thanks to you,
he broke it and gave it to those who were with him, saying,
“Take, eat. This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine,
and having given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying,
“Take, drink. This is my Blood of the new and eternal Covenant
which is shed for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the wondrous mystery:

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

And, giving thanks to you for restoring us in the ways of your Kingdom,
we offer you these gifts of bread and wine:

Fruits of the earth and of your own creation.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit,

that they may be for us the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us also, that in union with Christ

we may fill the world with your love,

renewing it with the gift of your Gospel.

Preserve us in rebuilding the world around us
and restoring the balance of nature.

Grant that we may see in your creation that splendid garden,
worthy of our respect and care.

Evermore strengthen your Church in the struggle

to preserve the environment and the diversity of life within it.

And, at the last day, bring us to your heavenly Kingdom,
where in the company of St Mary the Mother of God, St Helen,
and all your saints,

we may never cease to glorify you in the new creation of Jesus Christ.

By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,
Almighty God, now and forever.

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

Every time we eat this bread

and drink this cup,
**We proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world:
Blessed are they who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

AGNUS DEI

CP 745

COMMUNION

Dipping the host into the chalice (intinction) is not permitted in this diocese. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please indicate this by placing your right hand over your heart.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

Sung by Choir

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd CP 630

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please Stand

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

**we give thanks that you have made us partakers
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who took our nature upon him
and suffered death upon the cross for our redemption;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

May God our creator,
Who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
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

CLOSING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

CP 602

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 September 6, 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.

Contemplative Prayer

Contemplative Prayer sessions are held every Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

Liturgical Notes: The Season of Creation

On September 1, Christians around the world entered the Season of Creation, a time of prayer, thanksgiving, and renewed attention to God as Creator and to our place within the whole community of creation. The season has deep roots in the Orthodox Church and has grown into an ecumenical observance shared by Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Reformed Christians, and many others. It continues through October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

At St. Helen's, we begin our observance this Sunday with the Feast of the Creator, using new liturgical resources prepared by the Anglican Church of Canada and authorized for trial use. During the weeks that follow, we will also draw from *Common Worship* resources for the Season of Creation.

While some of the words we pray together will change with the season, the shape of our worship will remain familiar. As we do throughout the Church year, we will continue to worship within the established patterns of Anglican liturgy, while drawing upon seasonally appropriate language and resources approved for our use by Archbishop John. Some of these *Common Worship* materials will also be familiar from previous celebrations at St. Helen's. Through these prayers, we join Christians across the world in giving thanks for the gift of creation, recognizing our kinship with all that God has made, and renewing our calling to care for the earth and one another.

Faithfully,

The Reverends Sebastian and Jeffrey

Message from The Ven. Richard Leggett

Dear Friends,

It has been my privilege to serve as your priest-in-charge for the past eight months. You have been generous in giving of your time and talents to continue the ministries of the Parish even during a difficult time of uncertainty.

This has shown a maturity of spirit and a commitment to be agents of the good news of God in Christ in West Point Grey and beyond. I am confident that the ordained and lay leaders who serve you now will continue to nurture you with the gifts of the Spirit.

Thank you for the gift of friendship you have extended to me. I shall carry it with me into whatever new chapter lies ahead.

With every good wish and blessing,

Richard +

Intercessor Prayer Requests

Prayers for:

Makenna

Paula

Lissy & Neenimon

Ebony

Paul

Ruth

Lois

Diane

Neighbourhood Ministry Shopping List for this Week

St. Helen's is one of four parishes in the West Point Grey neighbourhood supporting this important ministry to provide conversation, food, essential supplies, and other forms of care to our street-involved neighbours. Once a month our parish prepares food and packets of essential supplies for a team of volunteers to distribute on their rounds every Saturday morning.

We are grateful for the donations of supplies we receive on a regular basis. The Ministry has compiled a list of essential items to include in their packets. This month we would especially appreciate donations of **men's socks, small cans of tuna** (with pull tabs), and **Boost or Ensure**.

Other staples needed on a regular basis include:

Juice boxes

Fruit or pudding cups

(We have more than enough granola bars for the moment, thanks!)

Donations can be placed in the NM bins under the table in the narthex.

We would also appreciate volunteers to prepare sandwiches and/or boiled eggs for the **September 26** and **October 24** outings (sign-up sheet in the narthex).

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email Shawn at deraaf@gmail.com.

We appreciate your support for our neighbours in need!

Volunteers Today

Intercessor: Liz Hodgson

Readers: Shawn de Raaf, Kyle Taylor

Lay Administrators: Shawn de Raaf

Counter: Dale O'Brien

Zoom: Tony Hodgson

Volunteers Next Week

Intercessor: Anne Bonnycastle

Readers: Hepsi Chand, Liz Hodgson

Lay Administrators: The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, Paula Pryce

Counter: Dale O'Brien

Zoom: Lynn Raymond

Next Week's Scripture Readings

The First Reading: Exodus 32:1-14

The Psalm: Psalm 106:7-8, 19-23

The Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-27

The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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://sthelensvancouver.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:

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Priest-in-Charge : **The Rev. Sebastian Way** | rector@sthelensvancouver.com
Deacon : **The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss** | deacon@sthelensvancouver.com

