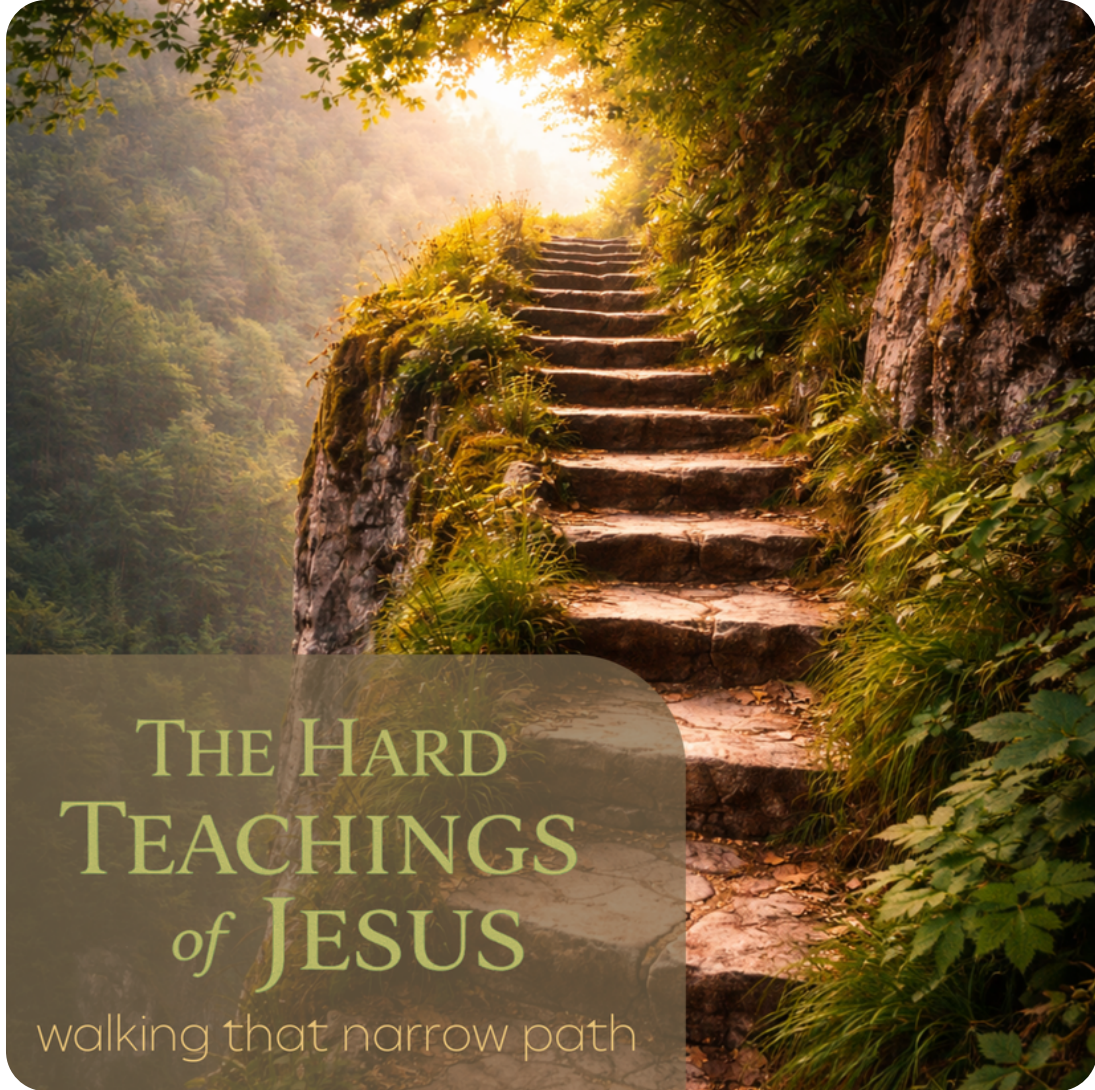




THE HARD
TEACHINGS
of JESUS

walking that narrow path

On the traditional land of the Semiahmoo

the Parish of St. Mark
O C E A N  P A R K

September 27, 2026

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome!

We are so glad you have come to St. Mark's today!

In this place we do two primary things: we give thanks to God and pray for the world. If there is something on your heart you need to share with God, this is the right place to share it.

*You are God's Beloved Child, and you belong **here**.*

This morning in worship...

Today we continue wrestling with the hard teachings of Jesus. In the Temple, Jesus tells a story about two sons—one who says yes but does nothing, and another who says no but changes his mind. On this **Orange Shirt Sunday**, as we remember the legacy of residential schools and our commitment to reconciliation, Jesus' question is particularly challenging: **Is it easier to say yes, or to "do" yes?**

Altar Flowers are given today by Geoff and Heather Higginson to the Glory of God and our gratefulness for His mercy. In recognition of all the first responders, medical staff, friends and family that helped our son David and us on Sept 28, 2025 and throughout the past year. His angels were present holding him up as we prayed they would be in Psalm 91:11 when he was born. To dedicate flowers, please sign up on the flower chart in the hall and let the office know your dedication.



Today's Scripture

From Introductions to the Lessons by Bill Bennett.

Exodus 17:1-7 The springs of Massah and Meribah symbolise "fault finding" when the Hebrews accuse Moses during a crisis in desert water supply in the Sinai desert.

Philippians 2:1-13 Paul urges the Philippians to show love to one another. He reminds them of the self-emptying love of Christ for all humanity.

Matthew 21:23-32 While teaching in the temple, Jesus clashes with the religious hierarchy.

Kids Club

Today is **Helper Sunday**! Through stories, games, activities, and conversation, children will discover the Jesus is always giving us peace we need. Kids Club is a safe, welcoming, and fun place to learn and grow in faith. Kids Club Crew are trained and approved for ministry with children and follow St. Mark's safe ministry policies.

Coffee Hour

Please gather in the hall for coffee and refreshment following the service.

Next Week: October 4

The Feast of St. Francis Pet Blessing

Bring your animal friend, a picture or a stuffy!

Matthew 21:33-40

The Reverend David Taylor facilitates.



the Gathering of the Community

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.

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.

Common Praise 418

***Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.***

Let us Build a House

Marty Haugen

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions;**

***All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

**Let us build a house where hands will
reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:**

***All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

Common Praise 418

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.**

***Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.***

God of our salvation,

**we falter before the demands of your
word and turn away from your call to
life. As you showed mercy to your
people of old, pour out your mercy on
us, so that we may turn from our
sinfulness and walk the path of self-
emptying love made known in Jesus
Christ, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**



Helper Sunday!

We have a wonderful program for your child this morning. They will return for Communion. Please note that all our adult Kids Club Crew have had a criminal record check and are approved by the Diocese of New Westminster to work with vulnerable people. All our Youth Crew have completed a Safe Church Training through the Parish.

the Proclamation of the Word

We have large-print versions of the Scripture available for those who need one. Please ask a greeter for one.

The Book of Exodus (17:1-7).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open.

Psalms 78

Hear my teaching, O my people;

incline your ears

to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will declare the mysteries

of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,

and what our ancestors have told us,

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come

the praiseworthy deeds

and the power of the Lord,

who has done wonderful works.

God worked marvels

in the sight of their ancestors,

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan,

splitting open the sea

and letting them pass through,

making the waters stand up like walls;

leading them with a cloud by day,

and all the night through

with the glow of fire;

splitting hard rocks in the wilderness,

and giving them drink

as from the great deep;

bringing streams out of the cliff,

and the waters gushing out like rivers.

Paul's Letter to the Philippians (2:1-13).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open.

Alleluia

Jerry Sinclair

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you,

Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 21:23-32

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Notes



The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; who descended to the dead; who, on the third day, rose again; who ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; who 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.

The Prayers of the People

While we have chiefly come to give thanks to God, our second purpose for gathering is to intercede for the world. We know that "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

The Confession & Absolution

Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you!

the Celebration of the Eucharist

*We collect our tithes and offerings and present them to the Lord. We give thanks to God for your generosity to the ministry of this community. You can give using an envelope, by signing up to our Pre-Authorized Debit program, or by using the terminal in the foyer. **Today we use a Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation.***

Please be seated as the choir sings an anthem based on the words of St. Teresa of Ávila, set to music by David Ogden.

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he sees,
yours are the feet with which he walks,
yours are the hands with which
he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands.**

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.

The priest continues in prayer.

Holy Holy Holy Lord

Argentine traditional

Holy, holy, holy,

my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words:

you are holy, Lord.

Santo, santo, santo,

mi corazon te adora!

Mi corazon te sabe decir:

santo eres Senior.

The priest continues in prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

the Reverend David Taylor

**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.**

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 Children of God.

Thanks be to God.

All are invited to receive Communion.

Prayer for healing is offered during communion on the right side of the sanctuary.

Common Praise 435

**Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.**

**Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love: my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Common Praise 458

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added
unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

Alleluia!

**Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened
unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

Common Praise 494

**Not for tongues of heaven's angels,
not for wisdom to discern,
not for faith that masters mountains,
for this better gift we yearn:**

may love be ours, Lord;

may love be ours.

May love be ours, O Lord.

**Love is humble, love is gentle,
love is tender, true, and kind;
love is gracious, ever patient,
generous of heart and mind:**

**Never jealous, never selfish,
love will not rejoice in wrong;
never boastful nor resentful,
love believes and suffers long:**

**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**

Announcements

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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Traditional

**I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**Tho' none go with me, still I will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me,
the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**Go in peace to live the gospel,
extending God's invitation to all.
Thanks be to God.**

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Financial Support

Thank you for your faithful stewardship through your tithes and offerings. Your generosity helps St. Mark – Ocean Park continue its ministry and serve our community.

If you would like to become a regular giver, please complete a welcome card and give it to a greeter or the priest.

Ways to Give:

- Cash or cheque (payable to The Parish of St. Mark – Ocean Park)
- Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)
- Electronic Donation Station (EDS) in the foyer (ushers are happy to help)
- e-Transfer to **give@stmarkbc.org**
- CanadaHelps through our website

If you would like donation envelopes, please contact the parish office.

Tax receipts are issued each February for donations made during the previous calendar year.

The Pulse

Youth News

Youth Group

Grades 8 to 12

Fridays from 7 to 9 pm

October 2nd is Fall Night

Autumn is upon us.

Let's get cozy,
drink some hot chocolate,
and leaf things alone for a while.

Bring a friend!



Today is Helper Sunday!

Children are welcome to join the fun downstairs where there will be games, activities and a story about one of God's Children, **the Good Samaritan**.

Next week is St. Francis Day with a Pet Blessing! Bring your pets for this amazing Wonder Sunday.

Sunday Videos!

est.mark-oceanparkanglicanc3043

The Lunch Basket is given this week to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the blessings of fellowship, friendship, and community.



Prayer Chain & Sunday Intercessions

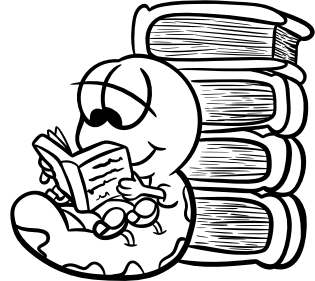
If you, or someone you know is in need of prayer, please connect with **Lynne** at lynnehl@telus.net. She will share your request with a community of faithful intercessors!

To have a name mentioned in the Sunday Intercessions, please write their name on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary, connect with **Michael** at michael@klaverrealtor.ca, or contact the office.

The Gospel of Matthew: God with Us

by Matt Woodley

Matt Woodley offers an engaging journey through the Gospel of Matthew, exploring the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. With a focus on Matthew's message of "God with us," and connects the biblical story with the questions, challenges, and experiences of our lives today. It encourages us to discover Jesus more deeply and consider what it means to follow him.



News & Events

This week at the Parish

Wednesday	Office closed for Truth & Reconciliation Day No Holy Communion
Thursday	Contemplative Prayer 7 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Friday	Sr. Youth Group 7:00 pm

A Neighbourhood Fall BBQ!

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in and helped with our Neighbourhood BBQ! It was a great success, and we truly appreciate everyone who helped make the day so enjoyable.

Memorial Service for Pat Wiemer

Saturday October 3rd, 2pm

Come and celebrate Pat's life, give thanks for all that she meant to us, and surround her family with our love and support in their grief.

Centering Prayer

Thursdays, 7pm

Looking for a way to still your heart in the middle of the week? Centering Prayer begins with 20 minutes of silence—a time simply to rest in the presence of God. This is followed by *Lectio Divina*, a prayerful meditation on a portion of Scripture, the writings of a saint, or an icon.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE!

Have you changed your name, email address, mailing address, or phone number?

Please remember to let the church office know of any changes so that we can keep our parish records up to date.

604-535-8841; office@stmarkbc.org

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.

Do you want to sing with a wonderful group of worshippers on Sunday mornings? Come join our ensemble. Practices are Thursday at 7:30pm. Talk to Kerry after church!

Want a name tag?

Just call the office and we will order one for you!

Think Before you Click - This Month:

Monitor your bank and credit card accounts and report any unusual activity immediately. Be alert for imposter scams. Verify the identity of anyone requesting money or personal information. Be cautious of investment offers promising high returns with little or no risk.

If you think you've been scammed: Contact your bank immediately or report it to your local police. **Remember: When in doubt—Stop. Verify. Protect Yourself.**

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—Orange Shirt Day

Today we commemorate Orange Shirt Day as part of our commitment to reconciliation with indigenous peoples of our country.

Orange Shirt Day was started by Phyllis Webstad as a way to remember her first days at a residential school in Mission, BC. Here is part of her story:

I went to the Mission for one school year in 1973/1974. I had just turned 6 years old. I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting - just like I felt to be going to school!

When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.

You can read more at orangeshirtday.org.



Creator God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen.

Financial Update

As of August 31, St. Mark's has received \$272,224 in income and incurred \$289,279 in ministry expenses, resulting in a year-to-date operating deficit of \$17,055. Total income remains slightly ahead of budget, thanks in part to strong rental income and designated gifts; however, general donations remain approximately \$14,900 below budget, while overall ministry expenses are above budget.

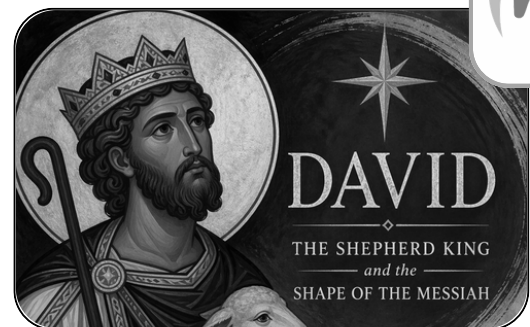
We are grateful for the continued generosity of our parish community and for the many ways our resources support worship, ministry, outreach, and the care of our church. As we enter the final months of the year, we will continue to monitor expenses carefully and encourage faithful support of the ongoing ministry of St. Mark's.



Available September 30

Join us this fall as we explore **the story of David**, one of the Bible's most beloved — and most complicated — figures **who gives us a glimpse into who Jesus is**. Pick up a study booklet at church or download a copy from our website.

This week **Part 4: A Broken King, a Deeper Hope.**



the Prayer Corner

Season of Creation 2026: Living Water

Ezekiel 47:1

The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple.



Worship That Flows Outward

The river begins in the Temple—the place of prayer and worship. Our worship is never meant to remain inside church walls. We gather to receive God's love so that we may carry that love into our homes, neighbourhoods, workplaces, and the whole creation. Every act of compassion becomes another stream joining God's river of life.

Wonder

**I wonder where God's love is flowing through you into someone else's life.
I wonder how our parish can become a river of blessing in our community.**

Prayer

God of worship and mission, fill us with your Spirit whenever we gather in prayer. Then send us out with joyful hearts to love our neighbours, serve our community, and care for your creation, until your living water flows through every part of our lives; through Jesus Christ, the Living Water of the world. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday Mark 13:21-27
Tuesday John 1:47-51

Wednesday Luke 5:27-39
Thursday Luke 6:1-11

Friday Luke 6:12-26
Saturday Luke 6:27-38



the Parish of St. Mark - Ocean Park

STMARKBC.ORG

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9am to 2pm

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