



St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2026

"If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you." *John 14.23*

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.

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).*

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

10:00am Service

From the Book of Alternative Services

Minister of Welcome:	Mary Lawrence	Eucharistic Minister:	David Stewart
Presider:	The Ven Craig Hiebert		Tony Barlow
Preacher:	The Rev'd Dyan Davison	Organist:	Janet Yonge
		Musicians:	St. Mary Singers

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.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

His Loving and Mysterious Ways, B Miller

WELCOME

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise (347)

1. The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM!
by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
2. The great I AM has sworn;
I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face;
I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace for evermore.
3. The goodly land I see
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

4. Triumphant hosts on high
give thanks eternally
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "great Trinity!"
Hail Abraham's God and ours!
One mighty hymn we raise:
all power and majesty be yours and endless praise!

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

Your love, O God, is boundless.

***We who were strangers
have been made your children;
we who were defenceless
have been brought into your household.
Keep us mindful of your mercy,
so that we may love you with our whole heart
and love our neighbour as ourselves.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.***

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

The congregation sits

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

Deuteronomy 34. 1-12, Christina Watkins

¹Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. ⁶He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Holy word, holy wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90. 1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

***Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.***

You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Go back, O child of earth.”

***For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.***

You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

***In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.***

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.

***Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.***

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

***Show your servants your works
and your splendour to their children.***

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

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

1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8, Karin Rasmussen

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not

to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

The Love of God Comes Close, Graham Maule, John Bell

1. The love of God comes close
where stands an open door,
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor.
The love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the love of God is here to stay.
2. The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn.
The peace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the peace of God is here to stay.
3. The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears.
The joy of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the joy of God is here to stay.

4. The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised and bent.
The grace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the grace of God is here to stay.
5. The Son of God comes close
where people praise his name,
where bread and wine are blest
and shared as when he came.
The Son of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the Son of God is here to stay.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22. 34-46

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.

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which
commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest
and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What
do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He
said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ “The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SERMON

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas, Ola Gjeilo

*Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.*

*Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity ; God will dwell with you.*

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

Karin Rasmussen

The congregation stands, sits, or kneels.

*Lord of grace and glory,
lead us from despair to hope.*

In your prayers this week remember those in need of healing and care especially Cameron, Diane, Jennette, Karen, Kerry-Ann, and William. 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; for The Diocesan and Synod Office Staff (Jenny, Brendon, Lisa, Samantha, Mark, Karen, Marten, Zena, Jibril, Justine, Meghan, Valentina, and Naomi); pray for the Diocese of Yukon, and Bishop Vincent Fenga. In the Church further afield, pray for The Church in the Province of Central Africa. Pray for the Students of the Canadian College of Performing Arts. Give thanks for the 50-plus years that the Oak Bay Preschool has nurtured children and families. And we give thanks for the new relationship with a new preschool that will carry on their name and their legacy as our partners, and for the teachers and families of the Oak Bay Preschool.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Silence is kept.

Most merciful 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 Presider reminds us of God's healing and forgiveness

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.

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).

OFFERTORY

Come Down, O Love Divine (645)

1. Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

2. O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till they become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of constant love, you have guided your people in all times and ages. May we who offer you our praise today always be ready to follow where you lead; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Book of Alternative Services, Eucharistic Prayer 3
with the Preface for Lord's Day*

The congregation remains standing, as they are able

The Lord is 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 prayer continues until:

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sung 735

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

The prayer continues until:

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
***we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;***

The prayer continues until:

...by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for 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

Where Charity and Love Prevail (487)

1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love him in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.

5. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.
6. Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.

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

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our guide, you have fed us with bread from heaven as you fed the people of Israel. May we who have been inwardly nourished be ready to follow you all our days; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Will You Come and Follow Me (430)

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?
4. Will you the love the “you” you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro Appassionato, N Landis

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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