

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
May 7th 2023
Home Church Connections Service
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Annibale Carracci, The Stoning of St Stephen - 1603-04

Currently: Louvre Museum 1st floor Grande Galerie, room 12

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“Nourishing faith and community”

The Gathering of the Community

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

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

Let us pray,

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the book of Acts

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of

the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died. And Saul approved of their killing him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; **do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.**

Incline your ear to me; **rescue me speedily.**

Be a rock of refuge for me, **a strong fortress to save me.**

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; **for your name's sake lead me and guide me,**

take me out of the net that is hidden for me, **for you are my refuge.**

Into your hand I commit my spirit; **you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.**

My times are in your hand; **deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

Let your face shine upon your servant; **save me in your steadfast love.**

Reading Two: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from the first letter to Peter

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

*'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'*

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

*'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner',*

and

*'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'*

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

*Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the

works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Announcements

Coronation Tribute *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour: look with favour upon thy servant Charles our King, and bestow upon him such gifts of wisdom and love that we and all thy people may live in peace and prosperity and in loving service one to another, to thine eternal glory; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving

God of grace, accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

**from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy so let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness. (*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.

Assurance of Pardon

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead to sin, and made us alive together in Christ. Therefore the God of love and power:

forgives us and frees us from our sins, heals and strengthens us by the Spirit, and raises us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever. 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.

The Blessing

The blessing of the Holy Trinity; the loving Creator, who is the source of all being, of Jesus Christ who is the love incarnate in the world, and the ever present Holy Spirit, hold you, surround you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Episcopal Church of Rwanda; for Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Ottawa, Bishop Shane Parker; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese, we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee; Saint Philip, Cedar. and the interim priest in charge The Rev. Deborah Rivet.

In our region, we pray St Barnabas, The Rev. Dr. Travis O'Brian.

In our parish we pray for Doreen Langmeed, Rick and Charlotte Lawson, Nico Lohmann and Vanessa Wilson and Hypatia and Aurelia Lohmann.

In our community we pray for Neighborhood House and those who are marginalized in our society.

For the month of May, we pray for those who offer gifts of gardening and landscaping care around the church.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples, the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

Welcome to all those visiting us at St. Peter and St. Paul.

We welcome saints, seekers and sinners as we live into a life in Christ, learning about and from one another as we worship God together.

Christ binds us together in love through our diversity. If you are comfortable, please give us your name and address so we can add you to our weekly prayer list. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

Washrooms are found in the hall, up the stairs, on the right.

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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