

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
May 21st 2023
Home Church Connections Service
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday celebrating Ascension



“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,

God unheld by word or wall: lift us from dullness and cynical contempt; make us ready for your Spirit of transforming power; and turn our hearts to the mending of the world, through Jesus Christ, the name above all names. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the book of Acts

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them

over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 93

The Lord is king; he has put on splendid apparel;
the Lord has put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.

He has made the whole world so sure that it cannot be moved;
**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.**

The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice; the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,

forever and for evermore.

Reading Two: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:4-53

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Announcements

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 Church of the Province of South East Asia; for Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Quebec, Bishop Bruce Myers; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese, we pray for Anna, our bishop; Saint Andrew, Sidney, The Rev. Julie Mallet and interim priest The Venerable Penelope Kingham.

In our region, we pray for the faithful of St Georges Cadboro Bay, The Rev. Christine Conkin.

In our parish we pray for Mary Osborne; Judy Parker; Mavis Pillar; Don Rodger; Peter Saunders; Annabelle Schuring; Lynn Scott.

In our community we pray for the Rainbow Kitchen, and those who are hungry in our society the Rainbow Kitchen, and those who are hungry 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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