

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
August 27th 2023
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Built by Herod in honor of Caesar Augustus. Historians claim that Pontius Pilate lived there. Now in ruins and located in Israel this is part of Caesarea Philippi National Park

Nourishing Faith and Community

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Prelude

(please stand as clergy enter)

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn CP 416 All Things Bright and Beautiful

(Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), Music English traditional alt. One License)

Refrain

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.***

*Each radiant flower that opens, each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their lively wings.*

Refrain

*The cold wind in the winter. the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruit in the garden, God made them every one.*

Refrain

*The rocky mountain splendour, the loon's wild, haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall.*

Refrain

*God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is the Creator, who has made all things well.*

Refrain

Gathering

In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ləkʷəŋən speaking people, of our Esquimalt, Songhees and Coast Salish First Nation companions.

From many places and peoples we come to this house in prayer.

In this time and place we gather in the name of the living God.
We meet in the presence of Jesus Christ, risen and alive.

In this time and in this space we gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages.

In this time and space heaven and earth are one.

In this time and space we are not alone, but one in Christ.
Knit together in the unity of the Spirit.

In this time and place, we are hallowed, expectant, one people in God.

In the name of the Holy and Blessed One, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gloria (sung)

**Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, glory to God on high,
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, glory to God on high,
and on earth, peace to God's people, glory to God,
and on earth, peace to God's people, glory to God.**

Kyrie (sung)

**In peace, in peace, let us pray to the...
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy**

**For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
For the unity of all, let us pray to the....
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy**

**For your people here who have come to give you praise,
For the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the....
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy**

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray,

Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(please be seated)

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Reading One: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the

more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket

among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

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

Psalm 124

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

**If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

**Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Reading Two: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn We are One in the Spirit

(Text and music: Peter Scholtes 1966 One licence)

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Refrain

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew

Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in

heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Hymn We are One in the Spirit

(Text and music: Peter Scholtes 1966 One licence)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:

Refrain

***And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

All praise to the Father, from who all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only son,
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one:

Refrain

Sermon *The Reverend Pam Worthington*

Musical Moments

Announcements

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD (please stand)

We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, his Son.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

We believe and trust in the Three in One.

(from Creating Uncommon Worship by Richard Giles)

Prayers of the People

Prayers of Confession and Assurance

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; welcoming of sinners and inviting us to table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Holy and gracious One: forgive our sins.

The ones we can remember, and those we have forgotten.

Forgive the wrong actions we have committed, and the right actions we have avoided.

Forgive the times we have been weak, unkind or judgmental and failed to live out your kingdom call to justice and love.

Forgive the lies we have told, the truths we have avoided and the pain we have caused others.

Creator of all, have mercy on us, and make us whole.

Early Irish (adapted from A Celtic Primer p. 95)

May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you!

Hymn CP 434 The Love of Jesus Calls Us

(Text: Herbert O'Driscoll (1928-), music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) public domain)

*The love of Jesus calls us our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received,
and for the generations who faithfully believed.*

*The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be
companions on a journey, where all the world may see
that serving Christ is freedom which time does not destroy;
where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.*

*The love of Jesus calls us to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.*

*The love of Jesus calls us in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
that God with men and women may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.*

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

Prayer over the Gifts

Creator, you bless us with many good gifts returned to you from your creation. Accept what we offer this day and bless it to a world of harmony. **Amen.**

(Our offering plate is not passed through the pews or placed on the altar but placed symbolically in front of the font near the back of the church. If you have missed it and would like to donate, it does remain available briefly after service.)

The Great Thanksgiving (please stand)

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Open your hearts.

We open to the fullness of God.

Feast at the banquet prepared from the foundations of the world.

We come, O Christ, in thanks and praise.

Holy and eternal One in whom we live and move and have our being our origin and our fulfillment we praise and thank you for drawing us to this sacred meal. From the ocean of your primal love you fashioned the marvel of creation and beauty of human life. From this land of towering forests, mist laden coastlines, the rhythms of the tidal seas, storm and stillness you humble us to affirm the sacred gift of all creation and our stewardship for everything given and received.

Praise be to you, source of all life!

From the earliest days the peoples of these islands learned their

dependence on your provision salmon and whale, elk and bear, and through song and ceremony, dance and painted cedar, hallowed these sacred relationships with all life.

Praise be to you, source of all life!

In Jesus Christ, you came into our world to reveal your glory, reconcile all peoples to yourself and make all things new in him. Now, gathered from many places, with a heart set on the pilgrim way we bring this bread and wine yearning for the nourishment of your Spirit and the fullness you promise in Jesus evermore praising you and saying

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, most holy One: for on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to all gathered and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave you thanks and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

"Behold, I am with you to the end of the age."

Therefore, God of all creation, we offer this bread of life, and this cup of salvation. Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts and upon us,

that we may know Jesus in the breaking of the bread and follow him in lives of selfless service and courageous love.

Praise be to you, source of all life.

In the fullness of time reconcile all things in Christ, and bring us to that heavenly table, where every tear will be wiped away and we will feast anew.

Blessing, praise and thanksgiving be to you, Holy and Eternal One, Undivided Trinity, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung) – Please see insert for music

(musical setting: Jamie Brown; Worthily Magnify Music, 2022. Used with permission)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive our sins; As we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and thine is the power and the glory forever, the glory forever, the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The One who defeated death and injustice is now present in this bread. The One who offers our life promise and hope is now present in this wine.

**Breaking into our lives and community
we ask God for new life in Christ.**

Invitation to table

The table of bread and wine is now ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of

sharing with the poor of the world with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion is offered

(Communion will be offered from a standing position in front of the choir pews. It is the belief within the Anglican Church that receiving in one kind is considered full communion. The chalice may be taken, the base touched in acknowledgement or passed by (one element taken) however intinction – dipping of the wafer into the cup - is not permitted).

Prayer after Communion (please stand)

Let us pray,

Living God, increase in us the healing power of your love. Guide and direct us that we may please you in all things, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy

Spirit; and the blessing of the Almighty,
God the unnameable Alpha and Omega, Jesus Christ, the love
incarnate in the world, and the ever-present Holy Spirit be among
you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Sending Go Now in Peace (sung a capella)

(Natalie Sleeth, 1976)

*Go now in peace. Go now in peace
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.*

Dismissal:

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen! We go in the name of Christ! Alleluia!

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to
Glory to God, and in loving memory of David
Walker, by Ann Walker.*

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Anglican Church of Australia; for Bishop Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Fredericton, Bishop David Edwards; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee and Anna, our bishop; Saint Philip, Victoria, The Rev. Allan Doerksen

In our region we pray for St John the Divine, The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum, The Rev. Dr. John Thatamanil.

In our parish we pray for: Andrew Sebo; Pat Seidlitz; Jean Smith; Rosemary Smith; Lawrence Surges and Hilary Mackey; and Frances Thomasset.

In our community Neighbourhood House and those who are marginalized in our society.

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.

Hospitality Tips

See someone in the pew you don't know?

Here are some tips to help you get to know one other.

Try: "I don't believe we have met. My name is"

Try: "I would like to get to know you better. My name is..."

Avoid: "Are you new here?"

After the service, discuss commonalities.

Try: "I enjoyed (or didn't) the (hymn/message or) in the service as it reminded me of"

Try: "What did you hear that spoke to you in the service today?"

Try "How did you find the service today?"

Avoid "Where are you from?" or "What brought you here?"

Remember to try to choose authenticity of experience over interrogation for information.

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Parish of St Peter and St Paul

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