

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
September 24th 2023
Home Church Connections Service
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Season of Creation



Words of Welcome

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

Renewing our commitment

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?"

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray,

Blessed are you Creator of all, to you be praise and glory forever. As your dawn renews the face of the earth, bringing light and life to all creation, bring hope to your people. May we rejoice in this day you have made, open our eyes to behold your presence, and strengthen our hands to work for justice for all creation, that the world may rejoice together and give you praise.

Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Exodus 16:2-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ And Moses said, ‘When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.” ’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At

twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.” ’

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,

**O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

**Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it.**

He spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire to give light by night.

**They asked, and he brought quails,
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.**

He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.

**For he remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, his servant.**

So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.

**He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,**
that they might keep his statutes
and observe his laws.

Praise the Lord!

Reading Two: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here

idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

The Affirmation of Faith

(Taken from Season of Creation ecumenical service which was adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.**

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
God made flesh,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

Tribute

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”. The orange shirt is a symbol of

the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

We pray for healing

Merciful God, you call us to loving relationship with one another. Be with us now as we seek to heal old wounds and find joy again in this relationship. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. Give us the gifts of honesty and openness, and fill us with your healing power and grace. We ask this in Jesus's name. **Amen.**

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession

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.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us 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 the power and the glory forever and ever. 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 peace of God, which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord; And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator-Father, Redeemer-Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Update on the Operational Appeal Letter mailed July 10 2023
On the Parish roll 68; Average Sunday attendance 40

The goal was \$10,000 (50 people donating \$200 each)
Realized was \$3,500

Bank Balance at August 31 2023
\$2,773 Operational cash
\$4,000 Borrowed from Building Fund

\$6,773 Cash in operating account (this includes the realized amount)

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

Worldwide and in Canada, we pray for our own Anglican Church of Canada and the Indigenous Anglican Church of Canada; for Bishop Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Montreal, Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee and Saint George the Martyr, Cadboro Bay The Rev. Christine Conkin.

In our region we pray for St Philip Oak Bay, The Rev. Allan Doersken.

In our parish we pray for: Doug and Bev Bowen; Cathy Carphin; Wendy Clapp; Noel and Marina Crawford; Tom Daggett and Annie Kung; Michael and Lynda Delaney.

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

For the month of September we pray for our upcoming autumn food drive.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples, who are 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.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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