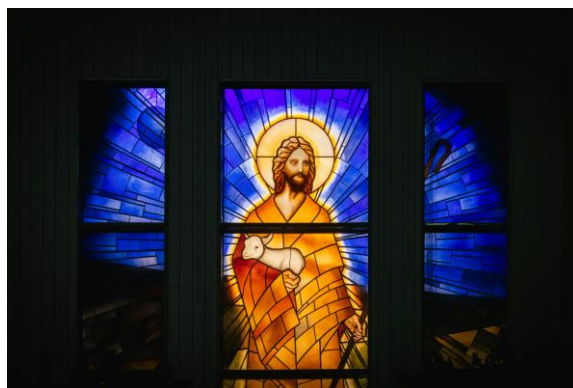


The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
April 21st 2024
Home Church Connections
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Nourishing Faith and Community

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

Collect

Let us pray,

Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for your flock you reveal your love for all. Lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life, so that, guided by your care for us, we may rightly offer our lives in love for you and our neighbour. **Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Acts 4:5-12

A reading from the book of Acts

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and

Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

*“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.”*

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLxdb3ov-zE>

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Reading Two: 1 John 3:16 – 24

A reading from the first letter of John

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of

his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

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

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Hear O Israel

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Announcements

Prayers for Gifts Offered

Let us pray,

God of grace, you have freed us in love, shown in the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

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

Most merciful God **we confess:**

Our self-centered living and failing to walk with humility and gentleness.

Our longing to have what is not ours and for our hearts that are not at rest within ourselves.

Our misuse of human relationships, and for our unwillingness to see the image of God in others.

Our jealousies that divide family and nations, and our rivalries that create strife and warfare.

Our reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and our carelessness with the fruits of creation.

Our hurtful words that condemn, and our angry deeds that harm.

Our idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ and our squandering the gifts of love and grace.

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 the 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 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.

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

In the world, we pray for The Church of South India (United).

In Canada, we pray for Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh, Bishop Lydia Mamkwa; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese, we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee; Saint Michael and All Angels, Chemainus, The Rev Michael Wimmer.

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

In our parish we pray for Adora and Bob Waters; Lynda Miller; Sharon Wickware; Max Wideman; Cindy Young-Bourgeois.

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

For the month of April, we pray for Our Soapy Sundries Drive on May 4th.

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
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