

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
July 26th 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Nourishing Faith and Community

Words of Welcome

The Gathering of the Community

In this time and from many places we gather on the ancestral lands the Lekwungen speaking people, of our Esquimalt, Songhees and Coast Salish First Nation companions.

From many places and peoples we come to pray.

In this time and from many places 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 in all places, we are hallowed, expectant, one people in God.

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

Let us pray,

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy,

that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 29:15-28

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' Laban said, 'This is not done in our

country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105

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.

He is the Lord our God;
his judgements are in all the earth.

He is mindful of his covenant for ever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
the covenant that he made with Abraham,

his sworn promise to Isaac,
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance.’
Praise the Lord!

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship,

or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

*‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ.

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’

He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour

until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Announcements

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 so 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

At peace with one another united as one we declare:

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)

The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever 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 and Dismissal

The grace of God uphold you, the peace of God surround you, the love of God flow from you and be your strength as you go into the world to love and serve;

The blessing of God be upon you today and forever.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

In the world wide communion, we pray for The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Moosonee, Bishop Anne Germond; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for The Abbey Church, The Rev. Matthew W. Humphrey.

In our parish we pray for: Jean Smith, Rosemary Smith, Roland Stacey, Nathaniel Sukhdeo and Ann Desgagne, Lawrence Surges and Hilary Mackey, Frances Thomasset, Betty-Anne Townsend, and J. Ann Walker.

In our community we pray for the Rainbow Kitchen.

For the month of July, we pray for the Coffee Ministry.

If you are visiting St. Peter and St. Paul, welcome!

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.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of 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.

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