

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
August 23rd 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost



Nourishing Faith
and Community

Prelude

Words of Welcome *(Please stand as clergy enters)*

Opening Hymn: SGP 38 Come, Christians Join to

Sing *(Text Christian Batteman 1843 Music Anon, 1824 Eerdmans Publishing Co Grand Rapids MI).) * words adapted by Gail Rodger*



*Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia.
Praises will ever ring*, Alleluia.
Let all with heart and voice
Saved by God's gracious choice,
Now in this place rejoice, Alleluia.*

*Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia.
Let praises fill the sky, Alleluia.
Christ calls his people friends,
The helpless he defends.
a love that never ends, Alleluia.*

*Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia.
Raise high the joyous strain, Alleluia.
The whole creation o're
Let all God's love adore
Singing forever more, Alleluia.*

The Gathering of the Community

In this time and place 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 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

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,

Lord have mercy

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 for ever. **Amen.**

(please be seated)

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

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

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.

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

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: CP292 We Cannot Measure How

You Heal (Text: John L. Bell (1949-); music: Melody Scottish

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We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to live
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hope to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

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: CP292 We Cannot Measure How

You Heal (Text: John L. Bell (1949-); music: Melody Scottish

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Publishing One license)

*So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.*

Sermon *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Musical Moment for reflection

Announcements

(please stand)

Affirmation of Faith

**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.

(from New Patterns for Worship Church of England)

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you!

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

(please be seated for this hymn)

Hymn: CP647 Spirit of the Living God

First (Verse one text : Michael Baughen (1930-). ©1982 Hope Publishing Co. Verse two Text: Daniel Iverson (1890-1977). ©1935, 1963 Birdwing Music, div. of Sparrow Corp. all rights reserved. Used by permission of CMC Ltd.)

*Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one on love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing –
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love!*

*Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
break me, melt me, mold me, fill me –
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me!*

(repeat both verses)

(Our offering plate is not passed through the pews nor placed on the altar. Instead it symbolically resides by the font near the back of the church, a calling to all the baptized to be part of the kingdom in the practice of committed giving. If you would like to donate but missed the offering plate on your way in, it remains available briefly after the service.)

Prayer over the Gifts

God of glory, receive all we offer this day as a symbol of our love, and increase in us that true and perfect gift. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer *(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)

(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.

The 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.

The table of bread and wine is now ready. It is the table of company instituted by Christ, and Christ who invites us to the feast. All are welcome.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Communion

(Communion is offered at three locations in the following order: station one is at the back of the church near the candles for those who prefer to stand and/or are physically challenged by steps without railings; station two, brought to the pew; station three: at the altar rail)

Instrumental musical selections are played during communion

Prayer after Communion *(please stand)*

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.

Musical Sending: Make Your Service of Love a Beautiful Thing.

(Text 13th century; music; Dent Davidson, copyright 2023 CCLI)

Refrain:

Make your service of love a beautiful thing.

Want nothing else; and be not afraid

Make your service of love a beautiful thing;

A beautiful, beautiful, thing.

And let your love, your love be free

Free to become, what love truly is

Strive every moment to live without sparing

*Make your service a beautiful thing. **Refrain***

*Always be fervent, -fervent and humble
Serve on another, with loving wisdom
Walk your pure journey with steps of beauty
Make your service a beautiful thing. **Refrain***

*Walk without sadness, let willfulness go
Take the sweet spirit, of peace and joy with you
Lay your heart open be free from all fear
Make your service a beautiful thing.*

***Make your service of love a beautiful thing.
Want nothing else; and be not afraid
Make your service of love a beautiful thing;
A beautiful, beautiful, A beautiful, beautiful,
A beautiful, beautiful thing.***

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!

Postlude

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.

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

In the world wide communion, we pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Ontario, Bishop William Cliff; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for St Luke Cedar Hill, The Rev. Daniel Fournier.

In our parish we pray for: Victor Flett Sr., Victor Flett Jr., Sandra Flynn, Pat Fraser, Gail Gill, Elaine and Al Hay, Karen Hogg and Ross Benton, Barbara Anne Holt, Barbara Hooper, and Graham and Licette How.

In our community we pray for the Esquimalt Seniors Community Centre Society.

For the month of August, we pray for Building maintenance and repair.

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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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
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