

The Anglican Parish of  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
August 25<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Home Church Connections Service  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Nourishing Faith and Community

# THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

## Words of Welcome

### Gathering

In this time and from many places we gather on the ancestral lands the Ləkʷəŋən 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 within this virtual 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 wherever we are, 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,

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.**

## **THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

Reading One: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

A reading from the first book of Kings

*Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.*

*'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house,*

*the place of which you said, “My name shall be there”, that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.*

*‘Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the

highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!**

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

**For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favour and honour. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

Reading Two: Ephesians 6:10-20

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will*

*be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 6:56-69

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Good News of Jesus according to John

**Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.*

*When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend*

*you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’*

*Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’*

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.**

(from New Patterns for Worship Church of England)

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 has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.  
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  
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.**

**Dismissal:**

**Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.  
Amen! We go in the name of Christ! Alleluia!**

## Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Church in the Province of Central Africa; for Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Caledonia, Bishop David Lehmann; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

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

In our region, we pray St Dunstan and the interim priest The Rev. Heather Robinson.

In our parish we pray for: Judy and Roy Haywood; Betty Hendry; Karen Hogg and Ross Benton; and Barbara Holt.

In our community we pray for Our Place Society, The Mustard Seed and those experiencing homelessness in our society.

For the month of August we pray for the ministry of building maintenance and repair.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL  
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