

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
September 1st 2024
Home Church Connections Service
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

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,

Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

A reading of poetry from the Song of Solomon

The voice of my beloved!

*Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.*

*My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.*

*Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.*

My beloved speaks and says to me:

*'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;*

*for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.*

*The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.*

*The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.*

*Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10

To the leader: according to Lilies. Of the Korahites. A Maskil. A love song.

My heart overflows with a goodly theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

**You are the most handsome of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you for ever.**

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever.
Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity;
you love righteousness and hate wickedness.

**Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
daughters of kings are among your ladies of honour;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Reading Two: James 1:17-21

A reading from the letter of James

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark:7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

Musical Moment

Thanksgiving and Remembrance for the Merchant Navy

Let us pray

Almighty Lord, God, the Protector of all who trust in you, we commend to your keeping all those in the Merchant Navy who gave their lives on our behalf. And we pray that out of the fruits of their sacrifice, Canada may have a righteous and abiding peace. They performed their duty with bravery, confident that in their life or in their death you were their refuge, and we know you hold them in your ever loving arms. We entreat you, O Lord God so to turn the hearts of the people of this land to do good, trusting in your goodness, so that we are renewed to do your service, learning and honouring from the past and evermore moving into the future and giving you praise, from one generation to another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

Come unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11. 28.*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3. 16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins: not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2. 1, 2.*

Let us humble confess our sins to Almighty God. (*Silence is kept*)

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!

Season of Creation

Christians around the world are invited to give particular attention to praying and caring for God's creation as part of the global Season of Creation, observed from September 1st to October 4th every year. General Synod 2019 passed a resolution adopting the Season of Creation in the Anglican Church of Canada as a time of prayer, education, and action and encouraging dioceses and parishes to participate.

To avoid confusion it is worth noting that the Season of Creation is not a liturgical season like Advent or Easter but rather a time of intentional prayer and reflection.

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

Worldwide and in Canada, we pray for The Anglican Church of Central America; for Bishop Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Calgary, Bishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee and Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria, Pastor Lyle McKenzie and Pastor Lyndon Sayers.

In our region we pray for St George's Cadboro Bay, The Rev. Christine Conkin.

In our parish we pray for: Barbara Hooper; Graham and Licette How; Judy Ingram; Fred King; Rhonda Koch.

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.

This week we hold special prayers for the Merchant Navy and all they sacrificed so we may have freedom.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək^wəŋən 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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