

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
September 29th 2024
Home Church Connections Service
Nineteenth 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,

Grant O merciful God, that your church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading One: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

A reading from Esther

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19:7-14

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
**the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;**
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.**
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
**But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,

and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Reading Two: James 5:13-20

A reading from James

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-50

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

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*

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 Church in Hong Kong; for Bishop Linda Nicholls, our Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Fredericton, Bishop David Edwards; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese we pray for our bishop, The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee and the people of Saint Mary, Nanoose Bay, The Reverend Kirsten Evendon.

In our region we pray for St Mattias Victoria, The Rev. Collen Lassimer.

In our parish we pray for: Judy Parker; Doreen Peets; Mavis Pillar; Don and Gail Rodger; Peter Saunders; Annabelle Schuring; and Lynn Scott.

In our community the Neighbourhood House and those who are marginalized in our society.

For September we give thanks for the generosity of the community who gave to our autumn food drive yesterday.

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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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