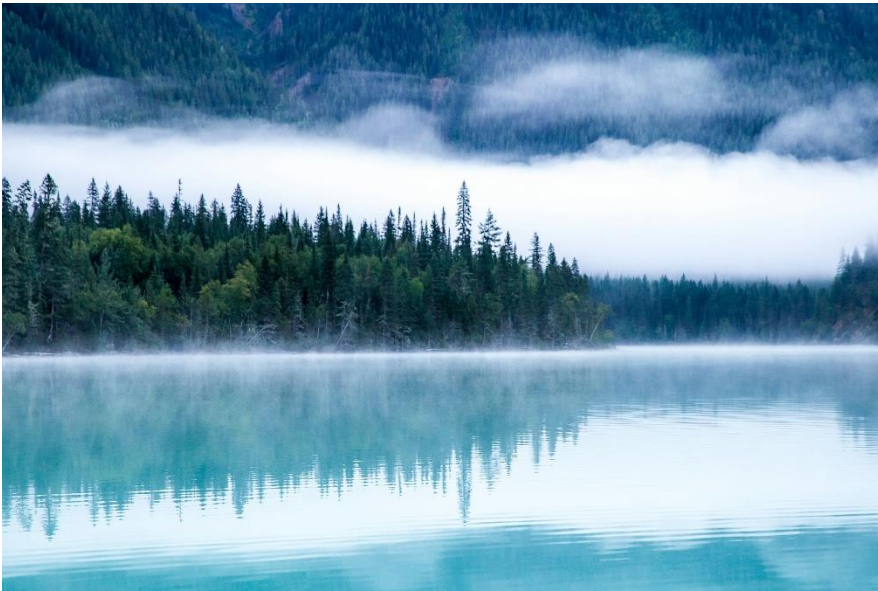


The Anglican Parish of  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
January 26<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Home Church Connections Service  
Third Sunday after Epiphany



“Nourishing faith and community”

## 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**

### Collect

Let us pray,

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; 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: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

*All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and*

*all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19: 7-13

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.**

### Reading Two: 1 Corinthians 12:12-32

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

*Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that*

*seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.*

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

*Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding*

*country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

*When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:*

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,*

*because he has anointed me*

*to bring good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives*

*and recovery of sight to the blind,*

*to let the oppressed go free,*

*to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

*And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat*

*down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he*

*began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'*

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon *The Rev. Gail Rodger*

Announcements

Hear O Israel

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment.**

**The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.**

## Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

### Prayers of the People

#### Confession and Absolution

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Communion setting 6 prayer of confession 2 p388)

Dear friends in Christ, let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another. (*Silence is kept*)

Gracious God,

**Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.**

God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has 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

The blessing of the Holy Trinity; the loving Creator, who is the source of all being, of Jesus Christ who is the love incarnate in the world, and the ever present Holy Spirit, hold you, surround you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



## Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines; for Anne Germond, our acting Primate; Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Saskatchewan, Bishop of Missinipi, The Right Rev. Adam Halkett, Anna Greenwood-Lee and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for Two Saints, The Rev Heather Robinson.

In our parish we pray for Elaine & Al Hay; Betty Hendry; Karen Hogg & Ross Benton; Barbara Anne Holt; Barbara Hooper; Graham & Licette How; Judy Ingram; Aaron Isberg.

In our community we pray for St John the Divine Food Bank.

For the month of January, we pray for our Pastoral Care Team.

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.

## 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.

*A message from Rev Gail.*

*My previous telephone number of 250-665-6814 is NO LONGER IN SERVICE. Please check your listing or address book to ensure you have my cell phone!! Cell phone number 250-507-9941.*

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL  
ESQUIMALT

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Rector The Rev. Gail Rodger 250-507-9941

Rector's Warden Ann Easton

People's Warden Adora Waters

Organist Lawrence Surges

Safe Church Liaison Karen Hogg [safechurch@stpeterandpaul.ca](mailto:safechurch@stpeterandpaul.ca)

Envelope Secretary Andrew Sebo [givings@stpeterandpaul.ca](mailto:givings@stpeterandpaul.ca)

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