



St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church,

Dedication Sunday, October 24, 2021

“O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!”

Welcome

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen speaking people. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

VISITORS *Welcome!* We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

COMMUNION All are invited to receive communion. For your safety, only the bread will be shared. Be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion.

Gluten free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.



FLOWER DEDICATIONS

in Memory or Celebration . . .

To make arrangements contact:

Anne Underhill – 250-370-5027.

10:00am Service

From the Book of Alternative Services

Presider & Preacher:	The Rev'd Canon Craig Hiebert
Organist:	Amiel Elfert
Greeters:	Pat Taylor, Ann Underhill
Musicians:	St Mary's Singers

*Note: in the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

*Congregational singing is now permitted while wearing a mask indoors,
with or without outdoors this is in order to maintain the safety of all.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

PRELUDE & PROCESSION

Choral Dorian, Johanna Alain

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Your love, O God, has been poured into our hearts.

We abide in you and you in us.

We will give thanks to you and call upon your name;
we will make known your deeds among the peoples.

We raise our songs of praise to you
and speak of all your marvellous works.

You alone are the Holy One,
who was and is and is to come!

CENTRING STILLNESS

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God.

Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, *watchful and caring, our source and our end, all that we are and all that we have are yours. Accept us now, as we give thanks to you for this place where we have come to praise your name, to ask your forgiveness, to know your healing power, to hear your word, and to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son. Be present always to guide and to judge, to illumine and to bless your people. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

PROCESSION TO THE FONT

PSALM 42. 1-5

- ¹ As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- ² My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- ³ My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"
- ⁴ I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude
and led them into the house of God,
with the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.
- ⁵ Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to the Holy One
who is the help of my countenance and my God.

PRAYER

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Creator, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all who here pass through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PROCESSION TO THE LECTERN

PSALM 92. 1–4, 12–15

- ¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, *
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
²to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;
³on the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.
⁴For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; *
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.
¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
¹³Those who are planted in the house of the Lord *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;
¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;
¹⁵that they may show how upright the Lord is, *
my rock, in whom there is no fault.

PRAYER

Almighty God, *your eternal Word speaks to us through the words of holy scripture. Here we have read of your mighty acts and purposes in history, and here we have learned about those whom you have chosen to be agents of your will. Inspired by the revelation of your Son, we seek your present purposes. Give us ears to hear and hearts to obey. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Genesis 28. 10-17, Warren Steek

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84

How dear to me is your dwelling,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,

my Sovereign and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way!

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

***They will climb from height to height,
and you, the God of gods, will reveal yourself in Zion.***

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

***Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.***

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

***For you, Lord God, are both sun and shield;
you will give grace and glory;***

no good thing will you withhold, O Lord,
from those who walk with integrity.

***O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!***

Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

1 Peter 2. 1-5, 9-10, Warren Steck

¹Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

Your Hand, O Lord in Days of Old (293)

1. Your hands, O Lord, in days of old
were strong to heal and save;
they triumphed over pain and death,
o'er darkness and the grave.
To you they went, the blind, the mute,
the palsied and the lame,
the leper set apart and shunned,
the sick and those in shame.
2. And then your touch brought life and health,
gave speech and strength and sight;
and youth renewed, with health restored,
claimed you, the Lord of light.
And so, O Lord, be near to bless,
almighty now as then,
in every street, in every home,
in every troubled friend.
3. O be our mighty healer still,
O Lord of life and death;
restore and strengthen, soothe and bless
with your almighty breath.
On hands that work and eyes that see,
your healing wisdom pour,
that whole and sick and weak and strong
may praise you evermore.

Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

After the Gospel, the reader says:

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD**PRAYER**

Almighty God, *we have heard your words to us in holy scripture, and know your call to each of us. In every age you have spoken through the voices of prophets, pastors, and teachers. We give you thanks that over the years we have heard you speak to us through the preaching of your word in this place. Grant that those who preach in this place may proclaim the crucified and risen Christ and interpret your word with sensitivity and insight, that we may hear that word inwardly and respond to it in all our life. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, your living Word. Amen.*

SERMON**ANTHEM**

God of Mercy, God of Grace, Jerry F. Davidson

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, (+) the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Warren Steck

Let us give thanks for the many ways in which God leads and provides for us...

...

For the Church universal, of which these buildings are a visible symbol,

We thank you, Lord.

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered in your name,

We thank you, Lord.

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,

We thank you, Lord.

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,

We thank you, Lord.

For our past and a vision of the future that lies ahead,

We thank you, Lord.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,

We thank you, Lord.

For the pardon of our sins when we have fallen short of your glory,

We thank you, Lord.

For the holy Eucharist in which we have a foretaste of your eternal kingdom,

We thank you, Lord.

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,

We thank you, Lord.

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,

We thank you, Lord.

For all the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ and are at rest,
We thank you, Lord.

For the fellowship of all your saints, and especially for the Virgin Mary, our patron,
We thank you, Lord.

[silence]

O God, from living and chosen stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence. This we pray through Jesus. **Amen.**

In your prayers this week remember the following: those in need of healing and care, including Christian, Gill, David, Judy, Barbara, Carrie, Cody, Isobel, Colin, Janice, Robby, Terry, Ian, Sandy, Brynn, Dorothy and Mary; our diocese of islands and inlets and Anna, our bishop, Lynn, our Metropolitan, and Linda, our Primate; the congregation of St. Peter, Campbell River and St. Saviour by-the-Sea, Cortes Island and their clergy Catherine Dafoe Hall. Diocese of Kootenay and Archbishop Lynne McNaughton; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Bishop Susan Johnson. In the Church further afield, pray for the Extra-Provincial Churches. Pray for all of us in our communities as we seek to reverse decades of systemic discrimination. Pray for the continued work of vaccination clinics and all health care workers. Pray for the ongoing work of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving. In silence, we call to mind our sin.

Silence is kept.

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. Amen.**

The Presider reminds us of God's healing and forgiveness

PEACE

The congregation stands

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Remaining in our places, we share physically-distant signs of Peace with those around us.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

For safety, the Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion.

Please also consider one of the other means of giving that do not require our volunteers and staff to handle cash and cheques: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or bi-weekly or monthly direct debit donations via our diocesan Electronic Collection Plate (details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).

OFFERTORY HYMN

For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (306)

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.
2. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.
3. He speaks, and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.
4. Hear him, ye deaf, ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come,
and leap, ye lame, for joy!
5. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father, hear the prayers of your faithful people. Grant that all who celebrate this Eucharist may please you by the offering of themselves and the fulfilling of your will. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Book of Alternative Services, Eucharistic Prayer 3

The congregation remains standing, as they are able

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfilment of your promise you pour forth your Spirit upon us, filling us with gifts and leading us into all truth. You give us power to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood. Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore, Father, according to his command,

***we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;***

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.***

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

***For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Silence is held after the Lord's Prayer

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

“I am the bread of life,” says the Lord.
“Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;
whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

***Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in him!***

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

THE COMMUNION

Please follow the direction of the greeters as they invite rows to receive communion. Please maintain a single flow: approach via the main aisle and return via the side aisles. If you do not wish to receive communion, but someone else in your aisle wishes to pass by you, please exit your pew temporarily to allow them to pass at a safe distance. You are also welcome to approach the presider for a blessing only—this is traditionally indicated simply by crossing your hands over your chest as you approach.

One of the ministers will bring the Bread out into the garden to serve those worshipping outside.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Creator, you have given us this time of joy and have nourished us in heavenly things. Grant that we may show in our lives the love of Christ who is our God and Saviour. ***Amen.***

COMMUNITY NOTES

AFFIRMATION

The congregation stands

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.***

BLESSING

HYMN

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (635)
Text: Carl P Fraw, Jr. Music: Peter Cutts. © Hope Publishing Co.

1. Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
2. To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
3. With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

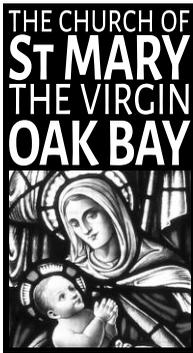
May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in e minor ("Cathedral") BWV533, J.S. Bach

The musical postlude is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for our encounter with God's Word as it has been experienced this day. You are invited to use this time for reflection, remaining seated.



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