



Welcome To ST. STEPHEN CHURCH



MARCH 17, 2024 – LENT 5

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish peoples

St. Mary's Service:

Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Communion: 10:00 a.m.

St. Stephen's Service:

Sunday Service: 11:15 a.m.

Continue to monitor our website - ParishCS.ca

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Incumbent The Rt. Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie, Honorary Assistant

Associated Clergy: The Ven. Bob Baillie,

The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane, The Rev. Paul Schumacher, The Rev. Gil Shoesmith, deacon

Please practice Health protocols that make you feel comfortable. Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.

11:15 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST Book of Alternative Services

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding & Preaching A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors. With thanks, please mute your cell phones during the service. The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

Prelude: Take My Life (Holiness) - Scott Underwood © 1995

CCLI# 1617154

Welcome

Gathering Song: The Steadfast Love of the Lord – Edith McNeill © 1974 CCLI# 21590

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, New every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord! Great is Thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, says my soul. Therefore I will hope in Him.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, New every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord! Great is Thy faithfulness.

The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul that seeks Him. It is good that we should wait quietly For the salvation of the Lord.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, New every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord! Great is Thy faithfulness.

The Lord will not cast off for ever, But will have compassion.

For He does not willingly afflict Or grieve the sons of men.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning,

New every morning.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord!

Great is Thy faithfulness.

So let us examine all our ways,

And return to the Lord.

Let us lift up our hearts and hands

To God in heaven.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning,

New every morning.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord!

Great is Thy faithfulness.

The Gathering of the Community

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and

the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Almighty God,

All: 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.

Trisagion - composer unknown, arr. Daisy Essery

Holy God, Holy and mighty,

Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy and mighty,

Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy and mighty,

Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

Centering Stillness:

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

<u>Collect for Ash Wednesday:</u> Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are

penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

<u>The Prayer of the Day</u>: God of suffering and glory, in Jesus Christ you reveal the way of life through the path of obedience. Write your law on our hearts, so that we may not stray from you, but be your people. Amen. Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – *Marian Towstego*

¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Responsive Psalm 51:1-13 BAS – Marian Towstego

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; * in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² Wash me through and through from my wickedness * and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions, * and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you only have I sinned * and done what is evil in your sight.
- ⁵ And so you are justified when you speak * and upright in your judgement.
- ⁶ Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, * a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁷ For behold, you look for truth deep within me, * and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

- ⁸ Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; * wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- ⁹ Make me hear of joy and gladness, * that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ¹⁰ Hide your face from my sins * and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹¹ Create in me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹² Cast me not away from your presence * and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- ¹³ Give me the joy of your saving help again * and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hebrews 5:5-10 – *Greg Robinson*

- ⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
- 'You are my Son,

today I have begotten you';

- ⁶ as he says also in another place,
- 'You are a priest for ever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.'

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Gradual: Create In Me A Clean Heart O God

– Keith Green © 1984 The Shepherd Music

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And renew a right spirit within me.

Gary: God be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Gary: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' 30 Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Gary: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Create In Me A Clean Heart O God (con't)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And renew a right spirit within me.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

The Apostles' Creed (said)

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

All: 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 of the People – Gary Moss

Confession & Absolution:

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy and welcomes sinners and invites them to the table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Presider: 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 All stand

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.

Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.

Offertory: Glorify Thy Name – Donna Adkins © 1976 CCLI# 1383

Father, we love Thee,

We praise Thee, we adore Thee.

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love Thee,

We praise Thee, we adore Thee.

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love Thee,

We praise Thee, we adore Thee.

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

<u>Prayer over the Gifts</u>: Giver of life, your Son has destroyed the power of death for all those who believe in him. Accept all we offer you this day and strengthen us in faith and hope; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all the living. **Amen.**

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

(Eucharist Prayer 4)

Presider: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The response is said.

Presider: It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God,

sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of

interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,

and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us

the stewards of creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever. All:

Presider: But we turn against you, and betray your trust; and we turn

against one another. Again and again you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he

opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

Glory to you for ever and ever. All:

Presider: Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus,

> with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with

them your glory, in their unending hymn singing:

Sanctus and Benedictus – music, Land of Rest, American traditional tune

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; Hosanna in the highest.

Presider: Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the

> Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, 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." Glory to you for ever and ever.

All:

Presider: Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ,

we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look

with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever. (sung)

Presider: Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your

new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and

glory are yours, creator of all.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray: (sung)

Lord's Prayer - Jodi Page © 1974 Celebration Services

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.

Breaking of the Bread:

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: We, being many, are one body, For we all share in the one bread.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei - Betty Pulkingham © 1974

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us Your peace. Give us Your peace.
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us Your peace

Administration of Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion – Chain Breaker - Johnathan Smith, Mia Fieldes and Zach Williams © 2015 CCLI# 706003

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

<u>Prayer after Communion:</u> Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God

All: whose love, 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

Sending Song: *The Servant Song* – *Richard Gillard* © 1977 CCLI# 72673

Brother, let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I might have the grace to Let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, We are brothers on the road; We are here to help each other Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you In the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, When you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony; Born of all we've known together, Of Christ's love and agony.

Sister, let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant, too.

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Change My Heart, O God – Eddie Espinosa ©1982 CCLI# 1565

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall

READINGS FOR MARCH 24, 2024 Sunday of the Passion with Liturgy of the Palms

John 12:12-16; Psalm 118:1-2 & 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 15:1-47



NEXT SUNDAY the service will begin at the Lychgate at 11:15a.m. as we hear the Gospel reading of the Triumphal Entry and bless the palms. We will then process to the hall to continue the service. If you do not wish to join the procession you may take a seat in the hall and read the lesson in the bulletin as you await the procession to arrive.

EASTER OUTREACH – You are welcome to remember the Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank this Easter. If you would like to bring non-perishable food items, you may place them in the boxes at the back of the church.

The Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank's Most Needed Items Are:

Canned Beans Dry Soup
Canned Vegetables Jam

Canned Fruit Peanut Butter

Canned Tomatoes Rice

Canned Meat School Snacks

Pasta Juice

Pasta Sauce Hot / Cold Cereal

Cookies Laundry Soap / Dish Soap Crackers Personal Hygiene Products

Kraft Dinner Disinfectant Wipes
Sidekicks/Helpers Boost / Ensure
Facial Tissues Toilet Paper

The Food Bank cannot and will not accept any food donations dated older than 6 months.

Holy Week and Easter Services - 2024

Date	Day	Time	Service	Location	
Mar. 26	Tues.	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St. Mary	
Mar. 27	Wed.	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	St. Mary	
		5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	St. Stephen	
Mar. 28	Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Foot Washing,	St. Mary	
			Eucharist &		
			Stripping of the Altar		
After the St. Mary Service – Stripping of the Altar St. Stephen					

Mar. 29 | Friday | 10:00 a.m. | Stations of the Cross Walk

Meet in the parking lot at Centennial Park at the corner of Hovey and Wallace. We will be walking to St. Mary. Along the way will be a series of prayer stops, including in front of Aurora.

If you are unable to walk the complete route, there will be several of the prayer stations on the church grounds so you can participate in the majority of the event. The final meditation and conclusion of the service will be held in the church sanctuary.

9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist	St. Mary
	_	St. Stephen

ST. STEPHEN OUTREACH - In your offering envelope package you will find special monthly outreach envelopes. For those who do not have offering envelopes, you may bring your outreach offering in a plain envelope, marked "Outreach for Month of _____" with your name and address. You may also use the Donate button on our website and choose St. Stephen Outreach from the pull-down menu.

Mar.	Rector's Discretionary Fund	This is a dedicated fund under the Rector's control and discretion which provides (but is not limited to) financial assistance to members of the parish and the wider community.
Apr.	General Outreach	Monies donated for General Outreach are used for one-off grants with most dedicated Christmas outreach.

Bob and Cathy Quicke's son Sean is the Musical Director of VAMC, the **Victoria Arion Male Choir** and Bob is one of their singers. This Spring the men of this choir will be undertaking a variety of events, both locally and up island.

At 2:00 pm on April 6th, 2024 at the Victoria Christian Reformed Church on Agnes Street (next to Pacific Christian School), the VAMC will host the *Men of Notes* from the Courtney Valley in a concert titled **Vim and Vigour**. Tickets are \$20.00 and information can be found on the posters on the Parish Notice boards. On May 4th, the VAMC will visit Comox, along with a third choir from Powell River, to participate in a Choir Festival hosted by Men of Notes.

On April 27th at 7:00 pm, the VAMC will be guests of the **Avalon Singers** and participate in their Spring Concert being held at St. Dunstan Anglican. Details and tickets for that event can be had by visiting http://www.avalonsingers.com/event/event.htm

Finally the VAMC Spring Concert, featuring a complete repertoire by Canadian Composers and Arrangers closes our 2023-2024 season on May 25th. Details will be forthcoming in early May or can be found on the choir website VAMC.ca

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Church in Wales; for the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin; the Anglican Church of Canada – Archbishops Linda, Lynn and Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

<u>Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:</u> We pray for Anna, our bishop; for the Parish of St. Andrew, Sidney; for the people of the Centennial Park Campus of the Saanich Baptist Church.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of St. Mary of the Incarnation, Metchosin, for the Rev. Lynn Mills, the Rev. Wally Eamer and the people of the parish and neighbourhood.

<u>Our Parish Clergy:</u> Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul, Richard, Gil and all who minister.

<u>In our Parish:</u> We pray for Diana Evans and for Peter & Margaret Simpson and for their families.

For those ill or in need of prayer: Neville & Patricia

For Those with Long-Term Needs: Cheryl, Ted, Jillian S., Paul J., Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery.

For friends beyond the parish: Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Warwick, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Courtney, Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Mario, Bryan, Karen & family, Mario, Drew.

<u>In the greater community:</u> We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.

ST. STEPHEN 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES –If you wish to use this method of giving please speak with Lynda to make arrangements.

TIPS FOR USE OF YOUR ENVELOPES – With Thanks!

- 1. Please write the amount of your donation on the envelope.
- 2. Please do not use scotch tape. It makes the envelopes harder to open and it tends to make them stick to other envelopes.
- 3. Please do not fold your cash if at all possible. The new 'plastic' money does not flatten and again, make for difficult handling and processing.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATIONS – If you would like to initiate giving through automatic debit or credit card, or adjust the amount of your current offering, please speak with Leslie.

DONATING THROUGH THE WEBSITE - You may donate to either congregation on-line by going to the parish website (**ParishCS.ca**) and clicking the "DONATE" tab on the top line. From there follow the instructions, *scroll down the menu to specify (this is most helpful for bookkeeping purposes) where your donation should be applied*. May be used for Outreach donations as well.

CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949 His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

Note: Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.

St. Mary's Anglican Church

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St. Stephen's Anglican Church

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