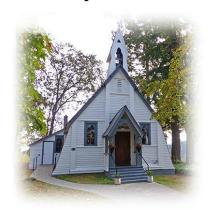




Welcome To PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH St. Stephen Church



MAY 25, 2025 – EASTER 6

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8b

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.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Diocese of Islands and Inlets Liturgy (V. I. Liturgy) 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: Shout To The North - Martin Smith ©1995 CCLI# 1562261

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Easter Greeting - Daisy Essery © 1990 CCLI# 3306590

Leader: The Lord is risen!

Congregation: The Lord is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia!

Leader: The Lord is risen!

Congregation: The Lord is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia!

Repeat as lead.

Gathering Song: He Is Exalted – Twila Paris © 1985 CCLI# 17827

He is exalted, The King is exalted on high,

I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted,

And I will praise His name.

He is the Lord,

Forever His truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth Rejoice in His holy name.

He is exalted, The King is exalted on high.

You are exalted, my King You're exalted on high, I will praise You.

You are exalted, forever exalted,

And I will praise Your name.

You are the Lord,

Forever Your truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth Rejoice in Your holy name.

You are exalted, my King You're exalted,

You are exalted, my King You're exalted,

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.

People: And also with you.

Lon: In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the

WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples.

All: From many places and Peoples we come to this house

in prayer.

Jackie: In this time and place we are not alone for we meet in the

presence of the living God.

All: For we meet in the presence of the living God.

Lon: In this time and place we are not alone for the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

Jackie: In this time and space we are not alone for the wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

All: The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

Lon: In this time and space we are not alone for we gather with the whole company of heaven. In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

All: In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

Jackie: In this time and place together, one People in Jesus Christ.

All: In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Gloria – Mass for the King of Glory

Betty Carr Pulkingham © 1973 (arr. for one voice by Daisy Essery)

Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest,

And peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Centering Stillness:

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

The Prayer of the Day: Holy One, you breathe the word of love and the promise of new creation into the secret places of our lives. Teach us the costly way of fearless love and priceless peace; through Jesus Christ, who dwells in us. Amen.

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

The Readings

Marian Towstego - A reading from Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴ The LORD said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, "I will give it to your descendants"; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.' ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. ⁶ He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹² and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 109:21-31 – Marian Towstego

- 21 For I am poor and needy, * and my heart is wounded within me.
- 22 I have faded away like a shadow when it lengthens; * I am shaken off like a locust.
- 23 My knees are weak through fasting, * and my flesh is wasted and gaunt.
- 24 I have become a reproach to them; * they see and shake their heads.
- 25 Help me, O Lord my God; * save me for your mercy's sake.
- 26 Let them know that this is your hand, * that you, O Lord, have done it.
- 27 They may curse, but you will bless; * let those who rise up against me be put to shame, and your servant will rejoice.
- 28 Let my accusers be clothed with disgrace * and wrap themselves in their shame as in a cloak.
- 29 I will give great thanks to the Lord with my mouth; * in the midst of the multitude will I praise him;
- 30 Because he stands at the right hand of the needy, * to save his life from those who would condemn him.

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.

Maria King - A reading from the Book of Revelation

Revelation 21:10 & 22 to 22:5

- ¹⁰ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.
- ²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.
- 22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of

life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: *Surely The Presence* – *Lanny Wolfe* © 1977 *CCLI*# 7909

Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power
And His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place.

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

Lon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according

to John

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' ⁷ The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' ⁸ Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

Lon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual: Surely The Presence (con't.)

Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power
And His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place.

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

The Apostle's Creed:

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.

The Prayers of the People – *Greg Robinson*

As people of the Resurrection, we are redeemed sinners.

The Peace

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: We Cannot Measure How You Heal – John L. Bell Melody: Traditional Scottish © 1989 CCLI# 961368

We cannot measure how You heal Or answer every sufferer's prayer, Yet we believe Your grace responds Where faith and doubt unite to care. Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, Survive to hold and heal and warn, To carry all through death to life And cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,
The guilt that clings from things long past,
The fear of what the future holds,
Are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
The hurt we never hoped to find,
The private agonies inside,
The memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need Your help And some have come to make amends, As hands which shaped and saved the world Are present in the touch of friends. Lord, let Your Spirit meet us here To mend the body, mind, and soul, To disentangle peace from pain And make Your broken people whole.

After the offering is placed on the Lord's Table, all sing:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Jimmy Owens ©1972 Lexicon Music, Inc

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

(Eucharistic Prayer A)

Presider: God is here

People: The Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

People: We lift them to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator. **People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: Great Creator, with wit and wisdom you have formed the

universe.

Your Spirit brooded over all in expectation, midwife of transformation. At your Word, the skies, the seas and the

lands and all life came to be.

The winds and breezes, waters, fresh and salt, calm or gale swept, beaches and tides, mountains, rain and snow, are the setting of life and teach respect for the forces of nature.

In this land the People learned to depend upon the plants, the cedars, the sea creatures, the deer, the wolves, the bears of the forest, the sea birds, ravens and eagles for daily needs and signs of what is to come.

In ceremony and song, in dance and art, these relationships are portrayed and honoured.

All created things shared life with one another, sensing connection with one other.

When connections were dishonoured and broken, creation suffered.

Creation continues and brings light from night, freedom from slavery, and life from death.

Sanctus & 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:

The living Word was sent to freely share sorrow and joy, pain and healing, life and death in Jesus our brother and friend.

On the night before Jesus died, he feasted with his companions. He taught them to remember how they are loved and to know his presence with them and in them always.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,

"Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you".

Later he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to his companions saying,

"Drink this, all of you; this is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for the world for forgiveness and healing. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me".

Entering into the mystery of faith we call:

People: Come, Creator.

Come, transforming Word.

Come, Breath of Life.

Presider: We recall the offering of Jesus,

guardian of your people:

a birth in poverty, a child refugee, a worker with his hands, the gathering of disciples and teaching and healing the People, his power over sin and triumph over death and his sacred presence unbounded by space and time, and we offer to God this bread and cup.

Send the Breath of Life, like wind, blowing where it will, north, east, south and west. May the Breath brood over these gifts and all who feast at this table offering a foretaste of the

eternal feast to come.

People: Bless and unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus that we may

celebrate with all creation. Sing, mountains and valleys, fields and seas, creatures of the rivers, oceans and

forests!

Presider: May all who share this poor pilgrim's portion from bread

and cup be incorporated as one body and one holy people, God's priesthood joined in the offering of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection for the reconciliation of all things.

Reveal the unity of your Church, the mystery of our communion with our holy forebears and all yet to be born.

By our mother Mary, Michael and all the holy angels, Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, apostles, prophets, ministers and martyrs, may we be encouraged in faith and in walking the

earth gently.

People: In good time, we will walk straight on,

not looking back, not turning our head,

to enter the presence of God and all the saints.

Presider: Glory and honour to God Triune, dynamic of love, complete

and perfect unity, in one holy church, now and in all ages.

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer: Our Father in Heaven

Daisy Essery ©2000 CCLI# 3310933 & CCLI# 7219396

Our Father in Heaven, Your name is Holy. May Your will be done here; May Your Kingdom come. You supply all we need.
Lord, forgive our transgressions,
As we forgive others
Who trespass against us.
And lead us, dear Father,
Not into temptation;
Deliver us, Lord,
From the evil one's snare.
For Yours is the Kingdom,
And Yours is the power,
And Yours is the glory,
Forever and 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.

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: Be Still for The Presence – David J. Evans © 1986

CCLI# 120824

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One is here.
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord Is shining all around. He burns with holy fire, With splendor He is crowned. How awesome is the sight, Our radiant King of light. Be still, for the glory of the Lord Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord Is moving in this place. He comes to cleanse and heal, To minister His grace. No work too hard for Him, In faith receive from Him. Be still, for the power of the Lord Is moving in this place.

<u>Prayer after Communion:</u> Father, you restored us to life by raising your Son from death. May we who receive this sacrament always be strengthened to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen 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: We Will Dance – David Ruis © 1993 CCLI# 1034438

Sing a song of celebration, Lift up a shout of praise, For the bridegroom will come, The glorious One, And oh, we will look on His face. We'll go to a much better place.

We will dance on the streets that are golden, The glorious bride and the great Son of Man. From ev'ry tongue and tribe and nation We'll join in the song of the Lamb.

Dance with all your might, Lift up your hands and clap for joy. The time's drawing near When He will appear And oh, we will stand by His side, A strong, pure, spotless bride. We will dance on the streets that are golden, The glorious bride and the great Son of Man. From ev'ry tongue and tribe and nation We'll join in the song of the Lamb.

Yes, we will dance on the streets that are golden, The glorious bride and the great Son of Man. From ev'ry tongue and tribe and nation We'll join in the song of the Lamb.

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *The Church's One Foundation* – Dave Bilbrough © 1985

CCLI# 527946

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for our potluck luncheon in the parish hall

READINGS FOR JUNE 1, 2025

Acts 16:16-35; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17 & 20-21; John 17:20-26

THANK YOU to Wolfgang Mathias for sitting in on drums today!

THANK YOU to everyone who assisted with and/or supported the Spring Fling at St. Mary's yesterday. It was greatly appreciated.

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.

| May | South Island Counselling | Our donations help fund programs for these non-profit agencies. |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Or Youth for Christ | The Blue Bus Ministry |
| June | Anglican Appeal | Donations support the mission work and ministry in Canada's North and our church partners overseas |

MAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON – TODAY AT ST. STEPHEN - There will be a potluck lunch in the hall after the 11:15 service. All are welcome. Please bring items to share. Oven warming is possible.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR VERA PHILIP – Saturday, May 31st, 1:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Church. Reception to follow. All are welcome.

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya. We pray for Archbishop Anne, our Acting Primate and for the upcoming election for Primate in June. John Stephens, Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

<u>Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:</u> We pray for Anna, our bishop; for the St. John the Baptist, Duncan.

<u>Regional Cycle of Prayer</u>: We pray for the Parish of Church of the Advent and those in their Parish and surrounding neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of Central Saanich United Church.

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

<u>In our Parish:</u> We pray for Don Campbell and for Bob Buchanan and for their families.

<u>We pray</u> for all candidates at next weekend's Cursillo, especially Becky and Maria from our Parish.

<u>For those ill or in need of prayer:</u> Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern & Mark, Ian, Dennis, Brett, Logan, Melanie B.

We give thanksgivng and praise for the recuperation of Boaz

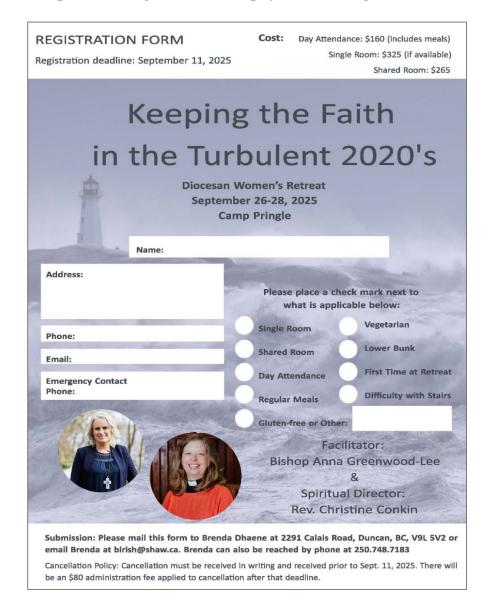
For Those with Long-Term Needs: Cheryl, Ted, Jillian S., Paul J., Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney, Ron H., Nancy J.

For friends beyond the parish: Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Warwick, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Anna, Betty O., Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Mike D., Michelle, Rudi, Cassidy, Carl G., Don C., Melanie, Keith & Lillian

<u>In the greater community:</u> We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We are all called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected.

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.

Due to postal strike an e-mail to birish@shaw.ca will be accepted as a registration and payment arranged later



For more information see the Diocesan website at:

https://www.bc.anglican.ca/events/fall-diocesan-womens-retreat-840/2025-09-26

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.

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Office: 250-652-1611 stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca

St. Stephen's Anglican Church 7921 St. Stephens Road

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