



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church

St. Stephen Church

Faith - Family - Friendship



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Welcome To
PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH
St. Stephen Church - 10:00



"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Matthew 20:16

September 20, 2026 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Join us as we worship the living Christ!

*We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands of the
W̱SÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples*

Continue to monitor our website - ParishCS.ca

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Incumbent

Associated Clergy

Bishop Logan McMenamie • The Ven. Bob Baillie • The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane
The Rev. Paul Schumacher • The Rev. Gil Shoesmith, deacon

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding

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 – Joanne Lambert

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

♪ Gathering Song: *Morning Has Broken* – CP #3

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 all. **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.**

♪ Hymn of Praise: Peruvian Gloria (*congregation sing bold words*)

1. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!

Refrain: To God be glory for ever. **To God be glory for ever.**

Alleluia, amen, **Alleluia, amen.** x3

2. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus! Refrain

3. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit! Refrain

Centering Stillness & Prayer of the Day

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

O God, from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practise your generosity, so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

First Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15 – Trish Bonham

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day.

In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.¹¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

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

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 —Jacqueline

¹ Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples.

² Sing to him, sing praises to him, **and speak of all his marvellous works.**

³ Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

⁴ Search for the Lord and his strength; **continually seek his face.**

⁵ Remember the marvels he has done,

his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

⁶ O offspring of Abraham his servant, **O children of Jacob his chosen.**

³⁷ He led out his people with silver and gold;

in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

³⁸ Egypt was glad of their going, **because they were afraid of them.**

³⁹ He spread out a cloud for a covering

and a fire to give light in the night season.

⁴⁰ They asked, and quails appeared,

and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

⁴¹ He opened the rock, and water flowed, **so the river ran in the dry places.**

⁴² For God remembered his holy word **and Abraham his servant.**

⁴³ So he led forth his people with gladness, **his chosen with shouts of joy.**

⁴⁴ He gave his people the lands of the nations,

and they took the fruit of others' toil,

⁴⁵ That they might keep his statutes **and observe his laws. Hallelujah!**

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.**

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30 – Deb Butler

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

♪ Gradual: *Lord whose love in Humble Service* – CP #585

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16 – Rev. Gil Shoesmith

God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

♪ Alleluia

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

♪ Alleluia

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

The Apostle’s Creed (*see pew insert*)

The Prayers of the People – Rev. Gil Shoesmith

The Peace

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

The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another.

♪ **Offertory: *Spirit of Gentleness* – James K Manley**

Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,

Blow through the wilderness calling and free,

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,

Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the waters, You called to the deep,
Then You coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons You called to each thing:
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” *Refrain*

2. You swept through the desert, You stung with the sand,
And You goaded Your people with a law and a land;
And when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
Then You spoke through Your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*

4. You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
With bold new decisions Your people arise. *Refrain*

Prayer over the Gifts

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ we behold your glory. Receive the offering of your people gathered before you, and open our hearts and mouths to praise your great salvation, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY EUCHARIST

Book of Alternative Services - Eucharistic Prayer 2

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, because, in the mystery you disclose to us, you reveal your glory as the glory of your Son and the Holy Spirit: three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. Therefore with all the company of heaven we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name:

♪ **Sanctus – (Aidan - John Bell)**

Holy, holy, holy God of power and might

Heaven and Earth are full, are full of your glory

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. (repeat)

Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is the one

Coming in the name, the name of the Lord

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. (repeat)

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, “Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you.” In the same way he took the cup, saying, “This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me.” Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer - (*sung; see pew insert*)

Breaking of the Bread

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

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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

Administration of Holy Communion

All are invited to share in the Bread or a Blessing. • Gluten Free Wafers are available upon request.

Please cross your arms at the rail if you would like a blessing.

♪ Communion: *The Goodness of God*

1. I love You Lord, for Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus: 'Cause all my life you have been faithful
and all my life you have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able;
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

2. I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights You are close like no other
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend,
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus x2*

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, strengthen the unity of your Church, so that we who have been fed with holy things may fulfil your will in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Doxology & Blessing

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**

♪ Sending Song: *We are Marching in the Light of God*

1. We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God...
2. We are walking in the love of God...
3. We are building up a world of care...
4. We are shining with the light of hope...

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

♪ Postlude – Joanne Lambert

CCLI# 245534

Thank you to all who are assisting today:

♪ Joanne Lambert, Trish Bonham, Jaqueline, Deb Butler,
Rev. Gil Shoesmith

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OFFICE HOURS

Parish Administrator: Hannah Nickel
Monday – Thursday
9:00-1:00
admin@parishcs.ca

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE: Hannah's Office Hours will be changing this week (Sept 21) to Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



The women of the parish are invited to meet for coffee or tea, some goodies, and great conversations. This month we are meeting in **St. Stephen Boardroom (ground floor), Friday September 25th at 10:00 am.** Please bring any questions you may have about the history of Central Saanich!

MEN'S BREAKFAST – The next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, September 26th at 9:30 at St Stephen Memorial Hall.** Lon will speak (topic TBD). RSVP to Lon ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca / 250-208-9949, verbally to Ken Pedlow, or use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex (SM) or Hall (SS).



POTLUCK LUNCH NEXT SUNDAY – There will be a potluck held next Sunday, **September 27th**, following the 11:15 service at St. Stephen. All are welcome to attend. **Please bring items to share in a plate or dish to serve from.**

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS FALL SALE – Saturday, **September 26th**, 4733 W. Saanich Rd from **10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Housewares, linens, China, home décor, small furnishings, jewelry, art, collectibles, books, toys, tools, sporting goods, local produce, flowers... For more information, call 250-479-0540 or email admin@stmikevictoria.ca

   **PET BLESSING SERVICE**    – There will be a pet blessing on **October 4th** during the **11:15** service at St. Stephen. All pets must be brought in carriers or on leashes (horses kept outside, please!). **Allergy alert: dogs, cats, and perhaps other critters will be present at the St. Stephen service on this day.** Donations can be made to the Victoria Humane Society on their website: <https://victoriahumanesociety.com/support-vhs/donate-now/>

ST. MARY 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.

September	Saanich Peninsula Hospital – Donations provide funding toward the Spiritual Health Practitioner (formerly Chaplaincy) program at the hospital.
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ST. STEPHEN OUTREACH

September	Alongside Hope (<i>formerly PWRDF</i>) – We support the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice.
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INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the **Anglican Church of Australia.** We pray for Archbishop Sarah Mullally; the Anglican Church of Canada and Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate; John Stephens, Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Anna, our bishop, and the deacons of the diocese.

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

Our Parish Clergy: Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul and Gil, Seminarian Melanie, and postulants Gary & Richard

In our Parish: We pray for Peter & Margaret Simpson, Sue Smith, Diana Abbott, and their families.

For those ill or in need of prayer: David Scarth, Bob Buchanan, Cathy Swincoe, Roche M.

For Those with Long-Term Needs: Lynn S., Brett.

For friends beyond the parish: Rudi D., Alysha, Cassidy.

In the greater community: **Those Who Serve & Those Who Care:** We pray for municipal leaders, first responders, social workers, healthcare workers, and all who serve the common good. We pray for caregivers: for those caring for aging parents, children with additional needs, or loved ones living with illness or disability. May all who serve and care for others find strength, support, and renewal in their own lives.

Globally: Global Leadership & Peace: We pray for leaders of nations and all who hold positions of influence, that they may seek peaceful solutions to conflict and act with wisdom, courage, and compassion. We pray for diplomats, negotiators, and international organizations working for peace and cooperation, and for all responsible for delivering humanitarian aid. May those entrusted with power work for justice, protect the vulnerable, and build a more peaceful and compassionate world.

SCRIPTURES & READERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Exodus 17:1-7 – Don Campbell (SM) • Ron Sewell (SS)

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 – Irene Feir (SM) • Greg Robinson (SS)

Philippians 2:1-13 – Carol Watkins (SM) • Marian Towstego (SS)

Matthew 21:23-32 – Ken Pedlow (SM) • Sean Lyon (SS)