



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church St. Stephen Church

Faith - Family - Friendship



Welcome To
PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH
St. Mary Church 9:00



September 27, 2026 – 18th 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 - Presiding

Associated Clergy

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

*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: *Wind Upon the Waters* – CP #408**

Wind upon the waters, voice upon the deep,
rouse your sons and daughters, wake us from our sleep,
breathing life into all flesh, breathing love into all hearts,
living wind upon the waters of my soul.

Showers from the heavens, water from the earth,
gift so wholly given, source of every birth,
joy of every living thing, making all creation sing,
shower down upon the dry earth of my soul.

Rock and hill and garden, wood and desert sand,
prairie, field, and meadow shaped by Love's own hand,
Love that fills the world around, springing up from barren ground,
grow your love within the garden of my soul.

Wind upon the waters, rains upon the sand,
grace your sons and daughters, new-born by your hand.
Come, O Spirit, and renew all the life that comes from you,
send your winds upon the waters of my soul.

The Gathering of the Community

In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the W̱SÁNEĆ
and Coast Salish Peoples.

From many places and Peoples we come to this house in prayer.

In this time and place we gather in the name of the living God.

We meet in the presence of Jesus Christ, risen and alive.

In this time and place, we gather with the community of faith around the
globe and across the ages.

In this time and place heaven and earth are one.

In this time and place, we are not alone, but one in Christ.

Knit together in the unity of the Spirit.

In this time and place, hallowed, expectant, one people in God.

**In the name of the Holy and Blessed One, Creator, Redeemer, and
Holy Spirit. Amen.**

♪ **Hymn of Praise: *Spirit Open my Heart***

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.

As you love, may I love in receiving and in giving.

Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*
2. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.
Refrain
3. May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. *Refrain*

Centering Stillness & Prayer of the Day

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

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties through the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7 – Don Campbell

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

²The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”

⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 – Irene Feir

¹ Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

³ That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, **we will not hide from their children.**

⁴ We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, **and the wonderful works he has done.**

¹² He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

¹³ He split open the sea and let them pass through;
he made the waters stand up like walls.

¹⁴ He led them with a cloud by day,
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

¹⁵ He split the hard rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

¹⁶ He brought streams out of the cliff, **and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

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 2:1-13 – Carol Watkins

2 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

♪ Gradual: *Hymn for Truth & Reconciliation*

God of healing God of Justice, lead us on in truth today

May your spirit make us one people walking in your loving way.

When we seek the path of healing, listening well to every voice

When we build a future founded on respect, compassion and choice.

May the church confess its failings, seek forgiveness, make things right

Building trust through acts of justice walking humbly in Gods light.

When we journey as one people, learning wisdom old and new

When we honour every nation, Christ your reconciling love shines through.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:23-32 – Ken Pedlow

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

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

♪ Alleluia

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

♪ Alleluia

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

♪ **Anthem:** *The Lord God Made Them All*

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

The Prayers of the People – Ken Pedlow

Confession & Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness. *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 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:** *We are Settlers and First Nations* – Herb O'Driscoll

**We are Settlers and First Nations sharing lands from sea to sea,
With a vision of the future and the people we can be.
We are Settlers and First Nations sharing lonely city streets,
Where we seldom share a greeting and where no one ever meets.**

**We are Settlers and First Nations in a world we can destroy,
Or we walk and work together for a world we can enjoy.
We are Settlers and First Nations sharing long remembered pain,
Seeking reconciliation to unite us once again.**

**We are Settlers and First Nations on a quest that must not end,
While God calls us to be neighbours, we must seek to meet as friends.
That as Settlers and First Nations on our journey round the Sun,
We are children of One Spirit. We are human. We are one.**

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

Liturgy for Islands and Inlets (Cedars)

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Holy One.**

Let us give thanks to our loving God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you, Creator of all. We praise you in this particular part of your creation here in the Salish Sea. We praise you for the wonderful diversity of sea life, plants, animals and people who live in this place.

We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again. We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, in families and dreams, and through wilderness prophets who prayed on mountains and listened to ravens. Together with angels and ancestors, whales and eagles, arbutus and fern, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honour song:

♪ Sanctus – St. 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)

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me. Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community. Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of Creation.

Bring us with St. Francis of Assisi, our patron saint of nature, of animals, and ecology, and all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come. All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

♪ **The Lord's Prayer** (*sung; see pew insert*)

Breaking of the Bread

Creator of all, who summons the salmon from the depths of the seas to yearn for the place of their origin.

So may your Spirit stir in our hearts to return and find our home in you.
The gifts of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Administration of Holy Communion

♪ **Communion:** *This Ancient Love (Long Before the Night)*

Long before the night was born from darkness
Long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire
Long before She wrapped her scarlet arm around the hills
there was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside
Long before a wing unfolded to wind
Long before She wrapped her long blue arm around the sea
There was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before the name of a God was spoken
Long before a cross was nailed from a tree
Long before She laid her arm of colours 'cross the sky
There was a love, this ancient love was born.

Wakeful are our nights, and slumbers our morning
Stubborn is the grass sowing green wounded hills
As we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held,
This ancient love, this aching love rolls on.

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: *Draw the Circle Wide* – CP #418

Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song; no one stands alone,
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

1. God the still-point of the circle, 'Round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, In God's gracious arms. *Refrain*
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, Faithful to God's call. *Refrain*
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, Open every door. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go, respecting and serving all that God has created.

For God created all and saw that it was good.

♪ Postlude – Joanne Lambert

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the parish hall.

🌸 The altar flowers at St. Mary are given by **Patricia & Neville Winters** to the glory of God and dedicated to Dianne and family (wife and family of Neville's brother).

Front cover art: <https://edifiedmonton.com/urban/community/national-truth-and-reconciliation-day/>
Every Child Matters art: <https://www.salamancany.org/o/nasc/article/842600>

Thank you to all who are assisting today:

♪ Joanne Lambert, Readers: Don, Irene, Carol, Ken, Assistants: Ken, Marian, Irene, Susan, Heather, Matty Stuart, 🍷 Lynn Fallan



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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:00-1:00

admin@parishcs.ca

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE – Hannah's Office Hours have changed. She will now be in the office at St. Mary Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

POTLUCK LUNCH TODAY – There will be a potluck held today Sunday, **September 27th**, following the 11:15 service. All are welcome to attend.



Thank you to all who have donated to the Soap for Hope project in recent months. Your contributions are highly appreciated! You may continue to drop off new and gently used hygiene products, and linens, to the Narthex at St. Mary and they will be brought in periodically. You can find more information about this local charity project at <https://www.soapforhopecanada.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/>

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS – St. Mary's Church will collect food & toiletry items for the Saanich Peninsula Lions Foodbank at any service on or before Sunday, October 11th. The large baskets will be in the Narthex for your items. Thank you in advance for your generosity; the Food Bank always greatly appreciates our donations. Please speak to Heather if you have any questions.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR LAY ASSISTING/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – We are in need of a few people to assist with these positions in both churches. Please contact Lon if you want to learn more or volunteer.

LECTURE – Brett Cane will be giving the lecture “What Church is All About” at Canadian l'Abri (6485 West Saanich Road) on Friday **October 2 at 7:00 p.m.** The lecture will also be available via Zoom which can be accessed by asking through <https://www.canadianlabri.org/resources> or calling 250-652-3355 for the link. Their e-mail is canadianlabri@gmail.com. People may come for a light supper at 6:00 p.m. or just show up for the lecture at 7:00 p.m.

ST. MARY OUTREACH • ST. STEPHEN OUTREACH

September	Saanich Peninsula Hospital	Alongside Hope
October	Rector's Discretionary Fund	Justice Van Society

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the **Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil**. 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 St. John the Baptist Church in Duncan.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for We pray for the Parish of the Church of the Advent, for Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen 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 Garry & Tracy Stubbs, Don Taylor, and Sybil Bagshaw 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, Jane, Paul, and Natalie

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

In the greater community: Work, Livelihood, & Welcome: We pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for all seeking meaningful and sustaining work. We pray for employers and businesses, that they may provide fair, safe, and dignified employment. We pray for refugees, immigrants, and newcomers to our communities, that they may find welcome, opportunity, belonging, and peace.

Globally: Reconstruction & Recovery: We pray for communities rebuilding after earthquakes, wildfires, war, and other disasters; for families restoring their homes and livelihoods; and for schools, hospitals, and places of worship being rebuilt. We pray for all who carry the wounds of loss and trauma, and for those who offer practical and emotional support. May those who are rebuilding find strength, hope, and the resources they need to create safe and flourishing communities once again.

SCRIPTURES & READERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Galatians 6:14-18 – Brett Cane (SM) • Sharryl Pearce (SS)

Psalms 148:7-14 – Barb Baillie (SM) • Lynda Clifford (SS)

Matthew 11:25-30 – Rev. Gil Shoesmith (SM) & (SS)