

St. James Anglican Church
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 27th, 2026
Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.
Celebrant & Homilist: The Reverend Ron McLean
Interim Organist ~ Choir Director: Marshall Martin



Prelude: Dialogue

L.N. Clerambault

Processional Hymn #372 (CP) “Praise to the Holiest in the Height”

Land Acknowledgement *Read by Mae Cox*

We acknowledge the first people who walked this land before us. The land on which we gather is the ancestral territory of the Anishinabek (ah-nish-in-nah-bek) Nation, specifically the Chippewas of Rama First Nation. This territory is covered by the John Collins Purchase of 1785 and the Williams Treaties.

We gratefully acknowledge the beauty and bounty of the land where we live, and our gratitude for the earth, the provider of all that is required to sustain physical life. We, as the youngest visitors here upon the earth, must ensure that the earth is here for the future generations of all beings that live upon her. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in this community, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

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.

The Gloria #702 (CP) “Glory to God”

Gathering Prayer

Grant O merciful God, that your church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all people, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Proclamation of the Word

A Reading from Exodus 17: 1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.

He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand up like a wall.

He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water as abundant as the seas;

he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

A Reading from Philippians 2: 1-13

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #407 (CP) Verse 1

"Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works"

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him. (Matthew 21:23-32)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gradual Hymn #407 (CP) Verse 2 “Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works”

Sermon The Reverend Ron McLean

Anthem “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

J. Rutter

Affirmation of Faith

We affirm our faith as we say:

We believe in one God, the Creator. You have made all things and placed your Spirit in them. We believe in your Son, Jesus the Christ. Send from your heart to preach and change our hearts to be like yours. He was born of Mary, his mother. He, being Creator with you, from the beginning of all time, became a person like one of us. He suffered and died on a cross of sin. He rose from death. He was taken into heaven. And now sits on your right hand. He will one day come again to the earth. To proclaim your kingdom and dominion. We

believe in a holy and great Spirit who comes from you to empower us. And enable us to live as your children. He is worshipped as you are, for he is one with You and Jesus. We believe in one holy church, begun and sustained by your apostles. We look to our baptism for forgiveness. We believe that one day all the dead will be made alive in the resurrection, and we believe that when we die we will return to you and be judged by you. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Beth Morum*

Confession and 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.

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.**

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

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

Offertory Hymn #576 (CP) "For the Healing of the Nations"

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer #3 (BAS pg. 218)

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; you are the source of light and life for all your creation, you made us in your own image, and call us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus #732 (CP)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant 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,

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

Celebrant 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 children, 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

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

These are the gifts of God for you, the holy people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Lamb of God #745 (CP) "Lamb of God"

The Communion

All are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer a blessing instead, please cross your arms and the priest will bless you. In the Anglican tradition, wine is shared from a chalice, or common cup. If you do not wish to drink from

the chalice, please cross your arms and the words of institution will be said. We do not practise intinction, or dipping the bread into the cup.

Communion Hymns

#619(CP) "Fairest Lord Jesus"

#259 (CP) "For the Fruit of All Creation"

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.**

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

Announcements

Recessional Hymn #572 (CP) "Let There Be Light"

Dismissal

We are followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and serving the world God loves. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "Fugue in F"

D. Buxtehude

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