

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST IN



September 27, 2026
And marking September 30
NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
PARISH OF LANCASTER
Diocese of Fredericton
Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop
Incumbent
Church Wardens
Parish Administrator
Organist & Choir Director
Sexton

Archbishop David Edwards
The Rev'd Christopher Ketch
Paul Desjardins, Chris Titus
Lori Maker
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Larry Totton

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We acknowledge that the land on which
we gather is the traditional unceded
territory of the Wolastoqiyik (M'liset)
and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

From Supplementary Texts (2001) to *The Book of Alternative Services*.

THE GATHERING OF THE CHURCH

Greeting

**Acknowledgement and Call to Worship for National Day of
Truth and Reconciliation**

Let us pray together the prayer **Honouring the Four Directions**

Come Great Spirit, as we gather in your name.

**We face East: To your symbol colour RED, the hue of revelation;
To your animal symbol the Buffalo, strong and nurturing; To your
lessons calling us to the balance of your Spirit in Harmony
with brothers and sisters; To invoke your wisdom
and grace, the goodness of the ages,**

We pray: COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.

**We turn to face South: To your symbol colour GOLD for the
morning star. To your animal symbol the Eagle and our Brother
Sun that enlightens our intellect and brings light on our path
to live responsibly; To your lessons calling us to balance of Mind
in the Spirit of humility; To invoke your spirit of illumination and
farsighted vision; Help us to love you and one another with our
whole heart, our whole mind, and our whole soul,**

We pray: COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME

**We turn to face West: To your symbol colour BLACK, still and
quiet. To your animal symbol the Bear; To your symbol the
Thunder mighty and purposeful; To your lessons calling us
to balance our emotions in the spirit of Gentleness and Honesty;
To invoke your spirit of introspection, seeing within;
Give us your strength and the courage to endure,**

We pray: COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.

**We turn to face North: To your symbol colour WHITE of clarity
and brightness. To our animal symbol the swan which brings us in
touch with Mother Earth and growing things; To your lessons
calling us to balance of our Body in the spirit of a good sense of
humor; To invoke your spirit of innocence, trust and love; Help us
to open our eyes to the sacredness of every living thing,**

We pray: COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME.

We turn to complete the circle and to look to God, our Creator who cleanses our Mother Earth with snow, wind and rain; To Jesus Christ, the Peacemaker who fills us with the wideness of mercy and lovingly embraces all, and the Holy Spirit who inspires us to action:

COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME. Amen.

(This resource was prepared for a Day of Prayer for Indigenous Justice, Jan. 11, 2013, when Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders gathered in Ottawa to discuss important legislation affecting Indigenous Peoples.)

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

People **We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” MP 456

- 1 Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;
where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt true faith in You.

Refrain:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

- 2 Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

- 3 Make me channel of Your peace.
It is pardoning that we are pardoned,

in giving of ourselves that we receive;
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Invitation, Confession and Prayer of Forgiveness

Officiant Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

All **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.**

Officiant Merciful God,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Officiant We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were all
baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that
makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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

We greet one another in the peace of Christ.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church,
being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one,
may show forth your power among all peoples,
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.

People **Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Officiant Thank you, Father,
for making yourself known to us
and showing the way of salvation
through faith in your Son.
We ask you now to teach and encourage us
through your Word,
so that we may be ready to serve you;
for the glory of the One in whose name we pray,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

*(from A Prayer Book for Australia,
Anglican Church of Australia 1999)*

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 40:25-31

A reading from Isaiah.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but 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. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
 and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 **One day tells its tale to another, ***
 and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
 and their voices are not heard,
- 4 **Their sound has gone out into all lands, ***
 and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
 it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
 it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens**
 and runs about to the end of it again; *
 nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect
 and revives the soul; *
 the testimony of the Lord is sure
 and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 **The statutes of the Lord are just**
 and rejoice the heart; *
 the commandment of the Lord is clear
 and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean
 and endures for ever; *
 the judgements of the Lord are true
 and righteous altogether.
- 10 **More to be desired are they than gold,**
 more than much fine gold, *
 sweeter far than honey,
 than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *

- and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? ***
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13** Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
 let them not get dominion over me; *
 then shall I be whole and sound,
 and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my**
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn "As the Deer Pants" MP 37

- 1** As the deer pants for the water,
 so my soul longs after You.
 You alone are my hearts' desire
 and I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
 to You alone may my spirit yield.
 You alone are my heart's desire
 and I long to worship You.*

- 2 I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
- 3 You're my friend and you're my brother
even though You are a king.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Martin Mystrom
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Gospel Reading John 1:1-18

A reading from John.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Candle Lighting Ceremony for Truth and Reconciliation

Reader 1- A reading from Genesis

God blessed [Adam & Eve], and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. (*Genesis 1:28-29 NRSV*)

As the **first** candle is lit for the **Stewardship of the Earth** let us pray together:

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the Centre of this Sacred Circle through all of which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. AMEN. (*from Indigenous Theological Training Institute planning and design team, written to accompany the Disciple’s Prayer Book*)

Reader 2 - A reading from Psalms

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (*Psalms 8: 4-9 NRSV*)

As the **second** candle is lit for **all First Nations** let us pray together:

Saviour, forgive and heal us from our failure to recognize and respect the revelation of your truth and love in the First Peoples of this land, from our participation in the systematic oppression of indigenous sovereignty, language, culture and spirituality, and from our role in the Indian Residential Schools designed to eliminate the unique society, wisdom and

beauty of the indigenous peoples of this land. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Reader 3- A reading from Mark

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16 *NRSV*)

As the **third** candle is lit for **Innocent lives lost at the residential schools** let us pray together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, receive, we pray, all innocent victims into the arms of your mercy. By your great might frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reader 4- A reading from Isaiah

[God] shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (*Isaiah 2: 4 NRSV*)

As the **fourth** candle is lit for **Peace** let us pray together:

Merciful God, you call us to loving relationship with one another. Be with us now as we seek to heal old wounds and find joy again in this relationship. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. Give us the gifts of honesty and openness, and fill us with your healing power and grace. We ask this in Jesus’s name. Amen. (Anglican Healing Fund prayer)

Reader 5- A reading from Romans

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our

Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
(*Romans 5:10-11 NRSV*)

As the **fifth** candle is lit for **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** let us pray together:

Creator we come to you with humility, respect, courage, and honesty, seeking your wisdom, generosity and love. Help us to understand those things that lead people into despair. Guide us to help make changes and restore the spirituality of all peoples. For all the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls we give thanks for their lives and pray that they have found peace with You. Give your comfort to family and friends, help them to heal and find ways to honour their loved ones. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Peacemaker. Amen.

Reader 6- A reading from Colossians

For in [Christ] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (*Colossians 1:19-20 NRSV*)

As the **sixth** candle is lit to acknowledge **Jesus sacrifice on the cross** let us pray together:

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen. (from the 1994 Covenant, Our Journey of Spiritual Renewal)

Let us stand as we are able, to once again confirm the articles of our faith in the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant Let us confess our faith 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 *“Remembering the Children Prayer”*

Kneeling or sitting, let us pray.

God of our Ancestors,
who holds the spirits of our grandmothers and grandfathers
and the spirits of our grandchildren,
Remembering the Children,
we now pledge ourselves to speak the Truth.
THIS WE PRAY, O GOD.

Remembering the children,
We pledge, with our hearts and our souls,
to act upon the Truth we have heard
of the injustices lived,
of the sufferings inflicted,
of the tears cried,

of the misguided intentions imposed,
and of the power of prejudice and racism
which were allowed to smother the sounds and laughter
of the forgotten children.

THIS WE PRAY, O GOD.

Hear our cries of lament
for what was allowed to happen,
and for what will never be.
In speaking and hearing and acting upon the Truth
may we as individuals and as a nation
meet the hope of a new beginning.

THIS WE PRAY, O GOD.

Great Creator God,
who desires that all creation live in harmony and peace,
Remembering the Children,
we dare to dream of a Path of Reconciliation
where apology from the heart leads to healing of the heart
and the chance of restoring the circle,
where justice walks with all,
where respect leads to true partnership,
where the power to change comes from each heart.

THIS WE PRAY, O GOD.

Hear our prayer of hope,
and guide this country of Canada
on a new and different path.

**THIS WE PRAY, GREAT CREATOR GOD,
IN THE NAME OF, CREATOR SETS FREE. AMEN.**

Hymn for the Offering “For the Beauty of the Earth” CP 429

Officiant Let us pray.

All **Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,**

and of your own do we give you. Amen

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

All **Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us. We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.**

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known. And through him, at all times and in all places, may we give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,
All **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.**

Dismissal

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

Closing Hymn “All Creatures of our god and King” CP 355

Those serving today’s worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Sherry D. & Marilyn Galbraith
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Patty & Jim Touchbourne
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Heather Masson
<i>Second Reader</i>	Deanna Morrison
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Officiant & preacher</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Shayne Galbraith

THIS WEEK

Wed, Sept 30, 10:00 am Saint John and District Senior’s Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677

Wed, Sept 30, 7:00 pm Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798

NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday – October 4 *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Fr. Chris presiding* Scripture readings Exodus 20:1-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

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***Happy Birthday this Week to:***



Holly Fitzpatrick, September 27  
Alice Hughes, September 28  
David Mitchell, October 3  
Kim Spinney, October 3

***“Remember you are a Child of God through Baptism”***

## PRAYER

### **Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of Sept 27-Oct 3**

- Mon:** Achim & Caroline Khitab and Family
- Tue:** Jennifer and Scott Larson and Family
- Wed:** Ken and Linda Lewell
- Thur:** Christine Legacy, Trevor Kaye and Family
- Fri:** Our Priest-in-charge, Fr. Chris Ketch

*Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.*

### **Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes**

Ginny Abbott, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, Grenville Ingraham, Ruth Northeast, Arlene Trask.

### **Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home**

Andrew Aalund, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Shirley Downing, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Kaye Mallory, Pam Melanson, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Avery Sherriff-Craft, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Dennis Totton, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

### **Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle**

In September, we pray for Shipping Agents that they may have a constant spirit of service in their dealings with ship's crews.

### **OUR PARISH PRAYER TREE**

A team of volunteers is available upon request, to pray for you or your loved one (with their permission) daily, for two weeks. These prayers will be treated with the strictest confidence. Prayer-requests should be short and to the point, and will be passed on verbatim. The Lord knows what we need best! A follow-up of thanks or an update encourages our intercessors in their ministry.

**To initiate the prayer-tree ministry please call your request to our "Captain", Ngaire Nelson (672-8666)**