

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

IN



September 13, 2026

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

<i>Bishop</i>	Archbishop David Edwards
<i>Incumbent</i>	The Rev'd Christopher Ketch
<i>Church Wardens</i>	Paul Desjardins, Chris Titus
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Lori Maker
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Sexton</i>	Larry Totton

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

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

THE GATHERING OF THE CHURCH

Greeting

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.

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.

People **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise “Let All Things Now Living” CP 403

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.

Almighty God,
you call your Church to witness
that in Christ we are reconciled to you.
Help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
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,

People

Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Exodus 14:19-31

A reading from Exodus.

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

[NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114

- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
 the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 **Judah became God's sanctuary *
 and Israel his dominion.**
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
 Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 **The mountains skipped like rams, *
 and the little hills like young sheep.**
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
 O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 **You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
 you little hills like young sheep?**
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
 at the presence of the God of Jacob.
- 8 **Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
 and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end

Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God. [NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn “God Forgave My Sin” MP 181

1 God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name;
I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name,
And in Jesus’ name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.

He said:

“Freely, freely you have received,

Freely, freely give;

Go in My name

And because you believe,

Others will know that I live.”

2 All power is given in Jesus’ name
In earth and heaven in Jesus’ name;
And in Jesus’ name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from Matthew.

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ ²² Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to

him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.' [NRSV-A]

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

Sermon Paul Desjardins

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 Intercession

Leader Let us join in prayer with God's faithful people throughout the world, saying "God of love: hear our prayer."
Lord God almighty, we pray for the unity of your church, that our life may reflect the love you have shown us.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We ask your grace for David our bishop, Chris our priest-in-charge, and for all who minister in word and in action, that we may bear faithful witness to your good news.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We seek your peace and justice in our world, our country and our community, that the needy may never be forgotten.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We ask your blessing on our homes, our friends and family, and on those who live alone, that we may know your presence ever near us.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We name before you all whom you have given us to pray for [*especially....*], knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can ask or imagine.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to you all who have died [*especially....*] that our trust in you may deepen as you show us the depth of your mercy.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We offer our thanks and praise for all you have done for us, rejoicing in the knowledge that you are with us always.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We look for your purposes to be accomplished, and ask you to fill us with the strength and vision to further your reign.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader These and all our prayers we offer to you, heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn for the Offering *“They’ll Know We Are Christians by our Love”*

- 1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
- 2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
- 3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.
- 4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

Text & Music: Peter Scholtes (1966)

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.**

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

Officiant Let us bless the risen and ascended Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn “Praise, My Soul” CP 381

Postlude

Those serving today’s worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Bev, Sharon & Carol
<i>Sunday School</i>	Finished for Summer
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Pam Boucher
<i>First Reader</i>	Paul Desjardins
<i>Second Reader</i>	Sharon Titus
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Officiant
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Officiant & preacher</i>	Paul Desjardins
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Paul Desjardins

Who’s serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.

NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday – September 20 *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost -Fr. Chris presiding* Scripture readings Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

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**Happy Birthday this Week to:**



Arabella Cameron, September 13  
Barb Ellis, September 18  
Tammy Boyer, September 19  
Meredith Fitzpatrick, September 19

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

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Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of Sept 13- 19

Mon: Susan Jack and Stephane Bolduc
Tue: Graham and Beverly Janes, Susan, Kimberly, John
Wed: Brian and Lynda Johnson
Thur: Keith and Elinor Joyce
Fri: Our Parish Administrator, Lori Maker

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