

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

IN



July 26, 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 “Jesus, Where’er Thy People Meet” CP 474 **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.

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal,
that we lose not the things eternal;
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

Genesis 29:15-28

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’ ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’ ¹⁹ Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’ ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ ²⁶ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife. [NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 105:1-11

- 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.

7 He is the Lord our God; *
 his judgements prevail in all the world.

8 **He has always been mindful of his covenant, ***
 the promise he made for a thousand generations:

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
 the oath that he swore to Isaac,

10 **Which he established as a statute for Jacob, ***
 an everlasting covenant for Israel,

11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
 to be your allotted inheritance."

Second Reading Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. [NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn “Lord, You Are More Precious than Silver” MP 447

Lord, You are more precious than silver,
Lord, You are more costly than gold;
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds,
and nothing I desire compares with You.

Lynn DeShazo© 1985
Integrity's Hosanna! Music/Kingsway's Thankyou Music
used with permission, CCLI # 2319023

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:31-35, 44-52

A reading from Matthew.

³¹ He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’

³³ He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’

³⁴ Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵ This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet:

‘I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.’

⁴⁴ ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' 52 And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Brenda Clayton
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 “Be Still My Soul”

- 1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heavenly, Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- 2 Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul; the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Katherina von Schlegel, tr. Jane L. Borthwick
(Public Domain)*

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

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

<i>Officiant</i>	And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
	we are bold to say,
<i>All</i>	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

<i>Officiant</i>	Let us bless the risen and ascended Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn "Praise Him! Praise Him!" CH 12

1 Praise Him, praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O earth His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;

strength and honour give to his holy name!
 Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,
 in His arms He carries them all day long.

*Praise Him, praise Him!
 Tell of His excellent greatness;
 Praise Him, praise Him!
 Ever in joyful song!*

- 2 Praise Him, praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer!
 For our sins he suffered, and bled, and died:
 He-our rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
 Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus the crucified!
 Sound His praises, Jesus who bore our sorrows,
 Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.
- 3 Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer!
 Heavenly portals, loud with hosannas ring!
 Jesus, Saviour, reigneth for ever and ever;
 Crown Him, crown Him! Prophet, and Priest and King!
 Christ is coming, over the world victorious,
 Power and glory unto the Lord belong.

*Frances van Alstyne (1820-1915)
 (Fanny J. Crosby)
 used with permission, CCLI # 2319023)*

Postlude

Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Joyce Mitchell & Ann Stone
<i>Sunday School</i>	Finished for Summer
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Margaret Penchoff & Ann Stone
<i>First Reader</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Second Reader</i>	Bruce MacLeod
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Officiant
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Officiant & preacher</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Terry Ricketts

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

NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday – August 2 *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost* Scripture readings Genesis 32:22-31; *Psalm* 17:1-8; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21



Happy Birthday this Week to:

Barbara Webber & Veronica Kerrigan, July 27

Margaret Penchoff, Kate Dunlop & Jim Touchbourne, July 30

Dawn Galbraith, July 31

Evelyn Mishra, August 1

“Remember you are a Child of God through Baptism”

PRAYER

Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of July 26-August 1

Mon: Michelle Cronin

Tue: Rick, Gen, Lily and Noah Cunningham

Wed: Rick and Linda Cunningham and Family

Thur: Bonnie and Nathan Dean

Fri: Romero House

Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

Ginny Abbott, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, 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, Grenville Ingraham, 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 July, we pray for all Seafarers, and for the Christian Societies that seek to assist seafarers, and the International Christian Maritime Association, the North American Maritime Ministry Association and those who bring the missions together.