

*Please practice Health protocols that make you feel comfortable.
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

HOLY EUCHARIST

Diocese of Islands and Inlets Liturgy (*V. I. Liturgy*)

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding & Preaching

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

Gathering Song: *God of Grace and God of Glory* (*CP #577 Vss. 1, 2, 4*)

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts that long have bound us
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days**

**Set our feet on lofty places
Gird our lives that they might be
Armoured with all Christ-like graces
In the fight for liberty
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we fail ourselves and thee.**

The Gathering of the Community

Lon: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Lon: In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the **WSÁNEĆ** and Coast Salish Peoples.

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

Gil: In this time and place we are not alone for we meet in the presence of the living God.

All: For we meet in the presence of the living God.

Lon: In this time and place we are not alone for the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

Gil: In this time and space we are not alone for the wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

All: The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

Lon: In this time and space we are not alone for we gather with the whole company of heaven. In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

All: In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

Gil: In this time and place together, one People in Jesus Christ.

**All: In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Kyrie (*CP #706*)

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy on us.

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy on us.

Centering Stillness:

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

Collect for Ash Wednesday: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

The Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be

changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Readings

Bob Buchanan - A reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ² But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³ And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' ⁵ He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord^[b]reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' ⁸ But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' ⁹ He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 27 –Bob Buchanan

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? * **the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?**

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, * **it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.**

3 Though an army should encamp against me, * **yet my heart shall not be afraid;**

4 And though war should rise up against me, * **yet will I put my trust in him.**

5 One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; * **that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;**

6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord * **and to seek him in his temple.**

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; * **he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.**

8 Even now he lifts up my head * **above my enemies round about me.**

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; * **I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; * **have mercy on me and answer me.**

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." * **Your face, Lord, will I seek.**

12 Hide not your face from me, * **nor turn away your servant in displeasure.**

13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; * **do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, * **the Lord will sustain me.**

15 Show me your way, O Lord; * **lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.**

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, * **for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.**

17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord * **in the land of the living!**

18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; * **wait patiently for the Lord.**

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.

Deb Butler - A reading from the letter to the Philippians

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even

with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4 ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: *Be Still*

**Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found-
we stand on holy ground.**

**Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight-
our radiant King of light!**

**Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**

Gil: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Gil: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ ³² He said to them, ‘Go and tell

that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.””

Gil: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual: *Be Still (con't.)*

**Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace—
no work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

The Apostle’s Creed:

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, 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.

The Prayers of the People – *The Rev. Gil Shoemith, deacon*

Confession & Absolution:

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy and welcomes sinners and invites them to the table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Presider: 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

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.

Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.

Offertory: Fairest Lord Jesus (CP #619 Vss 1, 2, 3)

**Fairest Lord Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou of Godhead's human son:
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honour,
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer
who makes the troubled heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and fair the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter,**

**Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

Prayer over the Gifts: God of wisdom, may the light of the eternal Word, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, guide us to your glory. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

(Eucharist Prayer B)

Presider: God is here

People: The Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

People: We lift them to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: Holy and eternal One, in whom we live and move and have our being. You are our origin and our fulfillment; we praise and thank you for drawing us to this sacred meal.

From the ocean of your primal love, you fashioned the marvel of creation, and beauty of human life.

From this land of towering forests and mist laden coastlines, you humble us and affirm the sacred gift of all creation, calling us to care for everything given and received.

All: Glory to you, source of all life

Presider: From the earliest days the peoples of these islands and inlets learned their dependence on your provision, salmon and deer, song and ceremony, dance and painted cedar, hallowed these sacred relationships with all life.

All: Glory to you, source of all life

Presider: In Jesus Christ, you came into our world to reveal your glory, reconcile all peoples to yourself, and make all things new in him. Now, gathered from many places, and joining with the saints of every time and place, we raise our thankful voices in songs of unending praise, saying

Sanctus & Benedictus *(Kingsfold)*

O holy, holy holy God,

O God of time and space

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your grace

Hosanna in the highest heave'n

creation sings your praise

**And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always**

Presider: Blessed are you, most holy One: For on the night before he died Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to all gathered, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

All: "Behold, I am with you to the end of the age".

Therefore, God of all creation, we lift this Bread of Life, and this Cup of Salvation. Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts, and upon us, that we may know Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and follow him in lives of selfless service and courageous love.

All: Glory to you, source of all life

In the fullness of time reconcile all things in Christ, and bring us to that heavenly table, where every tear will be wiped away and we will feast anew. Blessing, praise and thanksgiving be to you, Holy and Eternal One, Undivided Trinity, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*said*)

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Administration of Holy Communion

*All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.
If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing,
please cross your arms over your chest.
Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

Instrumental Music During Communion

Prayer after Communion: Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for these holy mysteries, which bring us now a share in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God

All: whose love, 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

Sending Song: *The Church's One Foundation* (CP #525 Vss 1, 2 & 4)

**The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought us
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought us,
and for our life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one glorious name we hallow,,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.**

**Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,**

**and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the parish hall

READINGS FOR MARCH 23, 2025

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;

1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1`-9

MARCH POTLUCK LUNCHEON – MARCH 23 AT ST. STEPHEN - There will be a potluck lunch in the hall after the 11:15 service. All are welcome. Please bring finger foods to share. Oven warming is possible.

PARISH EMAILS – We understand that some parishioners, especially those who use Shaw, have not been receiving the Parish Emails that are sent out through our website system (usually from admin@parishcs.ca). There are usually at least two per week, sometimes more. We have taken steps to try and resolve this issue at our end but these problems may be directly related to Shaw.

If you had previously been receiving emails but have not been receiving them recently, the advice from our Diocesan Digital Communications staff member is as follows:

1. Ask the parishioners who aren't receiving the emails to log into their shaw.ca email, review their spam filter settings, and adjust the filter sensitivity.
2. If problems continue, have your parishioner contact Shaw Home directly for assistance. Shaw can do email traces and figure out what error code is being sent out. The most common error is Error: 550 5.1.1 which means the recipient email does not exist or is invalid. I would recommend making sure there isn't a typo in the email address. The phone number to give people to call is 1.888.472.2222.

UPDATED CONTACTS FOR ST. STEPHEN

If you have a Pastoral Concern, please call The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego at **250-208-9949**

For Building, Site-specific and other matters please call one of the Church Wardens:

Bob Buchanan, Rector's Warden – 778-440-1701

Maria King, People's Warden – 250-889-2802

Facilities Use/Rentals:

Lynda Clifford – 250-655-6478 is retaining administrative responsibility for this function as well as Envelope Secretary duties.

For General inquiries leave a message at **250-652-4311**

We suggest clipping this out and posting it on your refrigerator

ST. STEPHEN OUTREACH – For those who do not have offering envelopes, you may bring your outreach offering in a plain envelope, marked “Outreach for Month of ____” with your name and address and, if applicable, your Electronic Collection Plate number.

Feb.	Saanich Peninsula Health & Hospital Foundation
Mar.	Rector's Discretionary Fund

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa. We pray for Archbishop Anne, our Acting 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; for the Parish of St. Andrew, Sidney the people of the parish and neighbourhood.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for our Parish of Holy Trinity, North Saanich and those in their Parish and neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of Central Saanich United Church.

Our Parish Clergy: Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul, Gil and all who minister.

In our Parish: We pray for Mike & Terry Will and for Neville & Patricia Winters and for their families.

For those ill or in need of prayer: Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern & Mark, Ian, Dennis

For Those with Long-Term Needs: Cheryl, Ted, Jillian S., Paul J., Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney, Ron H., Nancy J.

For friends beyond the parish: Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Warwick, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Anna, Betty O., Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Mike D., Michelle, Rudi, Bishop Geoff Woodcroft, Cassidy, Carl G., Don C., Melanie, Keith & Lillian

In the greater community: We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We are all called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected. We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.

CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949

His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

Note: Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.

St. Mary's Anglican Church

1973 Cultra Avenue

Saanichton, B.C. V8M 1L7

Office: 250-652-1611

stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca

St. Stephen's Anglican Church

7921 St. Stephens Road

Saanichton, B.C. V8M 1S2

Office: 250-652-4311

admin@parishcs.ca