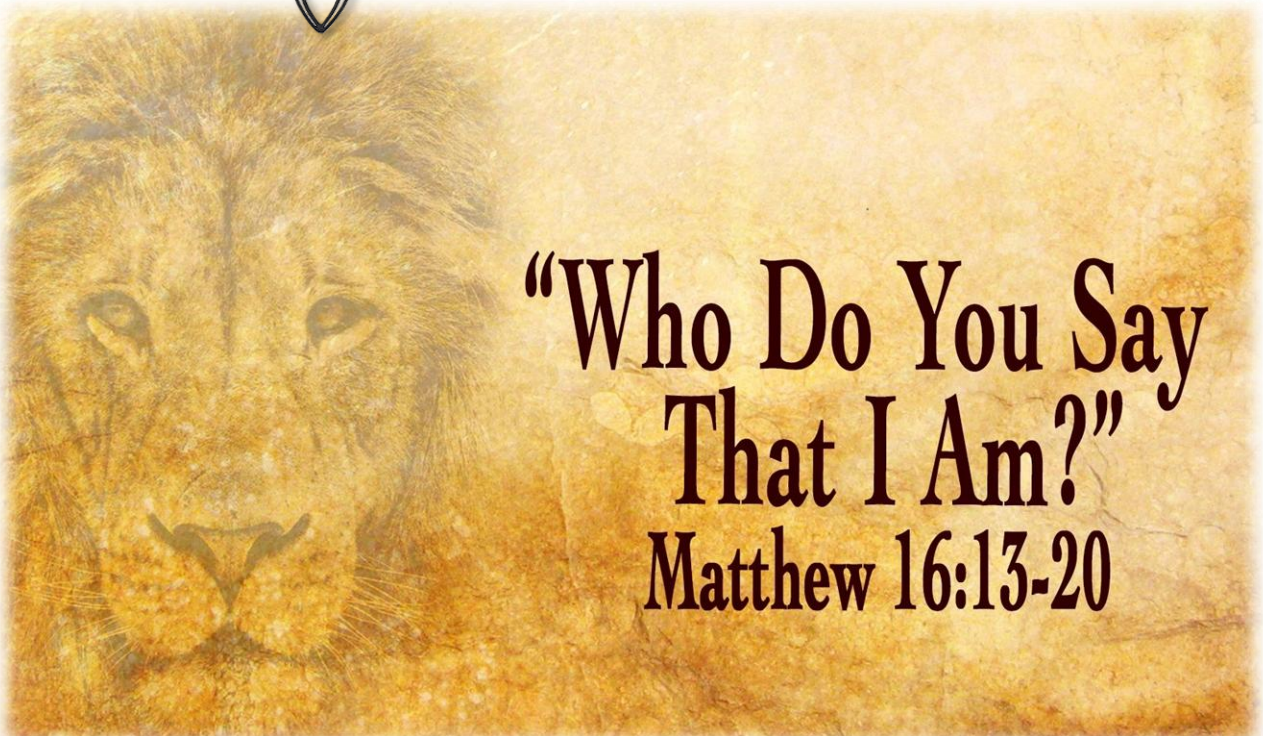




ANGLICAN & UNITED Church Ministries

Home of
St. Mary the Virgin Anglican
& Vegreville United Churches



“Who Do You Say
That I Am?”
Matthew 16:13-20

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23rd, 2026

A Sunday Prayer Service of the Word in the
Anglican Church Tradition

Rector & Minister in Charge: The Rev. Laureta Blondin

Today's Worship Leader: Val Rowe

Music provided by Companions on the Journey

(* = Please stand, but only if it is comfortable to do so)



elcome in the name of Christ to the Anglican and United Church Ministries in Vegreville and thank you for joining us on this special day. We pray that you enjoy your time with us and that your spirit is enriched as we sit together at the feet of our Saviour. We believe that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey God welcomes you... and so do we! If you are visiting us, a warm welcome to you. We pray that you and your family are blessed and experience Christ's love in this morning's service. God's richest blessings be on you!

The congregations of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church and Vegreville United Church is committed to the ongoing work of being fully affirming churches. Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone into the life of our congregations, without exception to ability, age, race, place of origin, ancestry, marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, life stage, or any other basis by which a person can be pre-judged. You are invited to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.

The congregations of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church and Vegreville United Church respectfully acknowledges that we are located on ancestral Treaty Six Territory land ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ (Siksikaitsitapi), a traditional gathering place, travelling route and home for diverse indigenous peoples including the Nehiyawak (Cree), Tsuut'ina (Sarcee), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Nakota Sioux, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), Métis, Dēnē Sųłı́nē (Chipewyan), Anishinaabe (Ojibway-Saulteaux), Inuk (Inuit), and many others whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our vibrant local communities. We give thanks for their hospitality and the opportunity to share common ground.

Children are welcome at all services! We believe it is very important for families to worship together. Don't feel your child must be absolutely quiet or still, for we are glad to have children — and all their wiggles, giggles, and squiggles — as part of our community and worship life! After all... as an old saying goes, "faith is caught, not taught!"

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16.16

Musical Prelude

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement & Prayer

All As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and work and worship on Treaty 6 lands that are, by law, the unceded territory of the original First Nations peoples.

Creator of all, give us one heart and one mind that we may live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with all diverse peoples who now call this land home. Amen.

The Gathering of the Community

♪ **Opening Hymn.....***Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (CP #101)

One Lord, open our lips,

All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

One O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit ✕:
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Invitatory

One The Lord is in his holy temple.

All O come, let us worship.

The Jubilate

Psalm 100

All Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age. *

One The Lord is in his holy temple.

All O come, let us worship.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

Exodus 1.8—2.10 [NRSV]

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them

to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.'¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.'²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

2Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

Reader Let us pray.

All **Helper and Defender of Israel, rescue the peoples of
the world from destructive anger, and set us free to
love and serve each other in the peace of Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

Second ReadingRomans 12.1–8 [NRSV]

12I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

♪ **Gradual Hymn.....When Hands Reach Out** (MV #169)

The GospelMatthew 16.13–20 [NRSV]

One The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

One This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

All Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

One The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermonwritten by The Rev. Laureta Blondin

♪ **Responsive Hymn** ***The Church's One Foundation*** (CP #525)

Affirmation of Faith

Hear O Israel

One Join me in praying the prayer that
Jesus prayed every day,

All **Hear, O Israel,**
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.

Invitation to Generosity

One Jesus calls us to be humble and so we are humbled by the divine presence in our lives. As we consider our humility, we realize that it is intertwined with gratitude. I invite you to give because you are grateful and humbled by God's blessings. I invite you to give because your blessings can bless others. I invite you to give to support the work of this community of faith, and work around the world.

♪ **Offertory Hymn..... *Take My Life, and Let It Be* (CP #435)**

Prayer over the Gifts

One Let us pray,

All **God of glory, receive all we offer this day as a symbol of our love, and increase in us that true and perfect gift. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The Prayers of the People

Let us now lift our hearts, hands, and voices in prayer to God on behalf of all people in need. Our response to, "Lord in your mercy," is "hear our prayer."

Heavenly Father, thank you for Peter! Thank you that he was so very human, and yet you graced him with faith to confess Jesus as your Son and Messiah. As you used him, we ask that you would also use us, to do your work of forgiving, confessing, and proclaiming Jesus as Lord to a disbelieving world (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ever seeking your glory, we pray for the church. Today:

- in the Anglican Communion's world cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and leadership of *The Church of the Province of West Africa* as well as the Edmonton Diocese's own companion Diocese of Buyé.
- in the United Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, our Moderator and for the people and leadership of the *Prairie to Pine Region*.
- in the Anglican Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for our Primate, the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, Archbishop as well as the people and leadership of the *Diocese of Calgary: the Most Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Archbishop (Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of the Northern Lights)*.

- in the Northern Spirit Region cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rev. Leigh Sinclair, our chair, and for the Rev. Adam Hall, our Pastoral Relations Minister, as well as the people and leadership of the *Camrose Pastoral Charge*.
- in the Diocese of Edmonton cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rt. Rev. Stephen London, our Bishop and for the people and leadership of *St. Thomas, Wainwright*.
- in our local cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of the *St. John the Baptist Russo Greek Orthodox Church*.
- in our indigenous cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and leadership of *Ermineskin Cree Nation*.

Establish the Church upon the solid rock of Christ, and on the faithful witness of your apostles. Make the Church truly the one body of Christ upon this earth; and do not let the gates of hell prevail against its faithful proclamation and teaching. By your Holy Spirit, make it wise, gracious and steadfast in your command to rightly forgive and retain sin; and use it to bring many to a saving faith in Jesus their Saviour (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep safe your servants who are persecuted for naming Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Visit them with your righteousness and draw near with your salvation. Grant that our words and deeds may never hinder or tarnish their witness. We also pray for missionaries, seminarians, and theologians entrusted with rightly proclaiming your word (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Conform the people and programs of this congregation to your good, acceptable, and perfect will. Help us to not think too highly of ourselves, but with sober judgment to use our talents according to the grace you have given each of us. Build up the body of your beloved Son among us through sound preaching, faithful teaching, generous

giving, cheerful service, and loving kindness (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all those who have instructed and shaped our faith – parents, grandparents, pastors, Sunday School teachers, and all those whose love for Jesus shines brightly through their lives and their example. Thank you for the saints whose confession of Jesus as Lord has been a blessing to others and has formed the unseen foundation of our own faith. Use us to encourage, instruct and guide others in lives of discipleship and service, to your glory and for the building up of your people (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach the world's rulers to listen to you, the giver of justice and the author of salvation. Conform their decisions and deeds to your righteous will, so that they care for the lowly and give hope to all who cry out to you. Heal the divisions that fracture families, communities, and nations; and help us to live at peace with our neighbours (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously answer the prayers of everyone who calls upon you for help, including those we bring before you now and name aloud or hold within the silence of our hearts (*long pause*). Along with those for whom no one prays, keep them safe in the midst of all that troubles them; increase their strength within them; and let them lift up their eyes and see the light of your salvation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We joyfully pray for all our brothers and sisters in this community celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and any other life milestones or accomplishments (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, dear Father, for all who have died trusting in you. Lead and guide us, who still walk a road that is stony and desolate, overgrown with the thorns of sin and briars of violence (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, dear Father, as they touch your heart through the Spirit who searches our hearts. For the sake of your beloved Son, answer them as may be best for us and give you glory. **Amen.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

One Let us pray.

All **Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*** ♪ The Lord's Prayer** (VU 959)

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

All **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 power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

God Moments

Announcements

*** ♪ Recessional Hymn ..*More Than We Can Ask or Imagine*** (CP #86)

* The Dismissal

One Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

One The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace.

* ♪ **Three-Fold Amen**(VU 967)

Thank you for worshipping with us! Please join us for fellowship time with refreshments and treats in the auditorium following the worship service.

Announcements

Life and Work of the Church

Donations to our churches: To continue the good work of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican and Vegreville United churches and ensure their ongoing presence in our community, your financial support is most appreciated. Donations can be made by either cash, cheque or e-transfer. Please use one of the envelopes located in the Narthex for cash or cheque donations and place the envelope in the offertory plate by the door. If writing a cheque, **please ensure your cheque is made payable to either Vegreville United Church or St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church.** Annual Tax Receipts are provided for all donations totalling \$20 or more per year to the church of your choice. E-transfers for Vegreville United Church can be sent to vegucc@telusplanet.net and e-transfers for St. Mary's can be sent to stmarysvegreville@gmail.com. Cheques can also be sent via post to 5126-48 Avenue, Vegreville, AB T9C 1M7.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule: Worship services are at 10:00 AM (unless otherwise noted) and alternate between the Anglican and United worship styles at Vegreville United with occasional blended services:

- Aug. 30th **14th Sunday after Pentecost:** A blended communion service in the Anglican & United Church traditions.
- Sep. 6th **15th Sunday after Pentecost:** ***First Sunday in the Season of Creation & Welcome Back Sunday!*** An ecumenical prayer worship service with a potluck lunch to follow.
- Sep. 13th **16th Sunday after Pentecost:** A communion service in the Anglican Church tradition.
- Sep. 20th **17th Sunday after Pentecost:** A communion service in the United Church tradition.
- Sep. 27th **18th Sunday after Pentecost:** An indigenous-styled Morning Prayer service in the Anglican Church tradition acknowledging ***National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada.***
- Oct. 4th **19th Sunday after Pentecost:** ***We celebrate the FIRST Anniversary of Our ESM on the Final Sunday in the Season of Creation & World Communion Sunday!*** A blended communion service in the Anglican and United Church traditions with a potluck lunch to follow.

Call for Local Waters to Celebrate the First Sunday in the Season of Creation: The theme for this year's Season of Creation is "Living Water," which is taken from Ezekiel 47:9 and 12. As part of our worship celebration on Sunday, September 6th, everyone is invited to bring a small amount (approximately 1 ounce) of water (small vials are in the narthex) from their local lake, river or pond to pour into our baptismal font.

Rhubarb Crisp Available: Are you craving a bit of Rhubarb Crisp? There is still lots in our freezer. Cost is \$5 small and \$10 large. Please call Irene Sabados in the church office (780) 632-2338 to arrange pickup.



Hot Dog & Smokies BBQ Date: Friday, Sept. 4th, at the Vegreville Co-op (4914-51 Ave.), 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Hot dogs, smokies, and all the fixings, along with chips and pop for a fast and easy lunch. Come support our church community by having lunch. Cost is by donation with all funds collected to help maintain our church presence in the community.

Prayers of the People: While you are always encouraged to name aloud those you are praying for during the Prayers of the People, some people find this a difficult task when they are in a stance of prayer. To add a name to the prayers for the sick (only first name will be read out) or those who have died (full name will be read out): Please email Irene Sabados in the Church office, vegucc@telusplanet.net or give her a call (780) 632-2338. You can also call Rev. Laureta at (780) 904-9026. Rev. Laureta or the prayer leader will include their names during the Prayers of the People at worship. Names will stay on the prayer list for a total of three weeks unless a longer period is specifically requested.

Shut-In Senior's Visits: Do you know a local senior shut in who would like a visit by the Rev. Laureta Blondin? Rev. Laureta will be pleased to visit home-bound seniors and take them communion if they would like to receive it. Please call Irene Sabados in the church office (780) 632-2338 to arrange and advise if there are any special needs!

If you have any questions about our church services or programs, want to add something to our bulletin or add a name to the prayers for the sick or deceased, please call or email the Church office.

**Please check out our events page
on our church website for more upcoming events:**
<https://vegrevilleunitedchurch.com/events>