



August 31st, 2025

A Blended Anglican & United Service of Holy Communion

Rector & Minister in Charge: The Rev. Laureta Blondin

Music provided by Companions on the Journey & Ellen Johnstone

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

to Anglican and United Church Ministries in Vegreville and thank you for joining us today. 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 are 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 Vegreville United Church and St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church respectfully acknowledge that we are located on ancestral Treaty Six Territory land ᓂᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ (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, Dënë Sųłıně (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!"

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart. *Matthew 11.29*

Land Acknowledgement

* The Gathering – Call to Worship

Celebrant Come, let us worship the God who invites us to take the lower place, who calls us to lives of humility, compassion, and grace. Let us delight in God's commands—doing good, showing kindness, loving the stranger, remembering the forgotten. We gather not for honour, but to honour the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Let our praise rise, not only in words, but in lives that reflect God's justice and generosity. Come, let us worship the Lord with reverence, with joy, and with open hearts.

People **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Celebrant God of the Cosmos,
All **thank you for the ways you support and sustain your beloved children! Thank you for bringing us together in this space as one part of the whole Body of Christ. Thank you for the ways you continue to make yourself known as we sing, listen to your holy word, and share our resources. Grant us eager hearts, ready to overcome our anxieties, our fears, and our stubborn selfishness as we draw closer to you. Fill us once again with your sweet Spirit, inspiring us to action and to accountability as faith-full followers of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

♪ **Opening Hymn** ***It's a Song of Praise*** (MV 30)

*** Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

Celebrant Our God is a generous God, bestowing grace immeasurably, loving us beyond what we can imagine, and forgiving us before we know to ask. To this God of generosity, love and forgiveness we now turn as we confess our sins.

People **Holy God, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honour. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble, gracious spirits. Amen.**

Celebrant God alone has the authority to judge, and by the grace of Jesus Christ, God has declared that we are forgiven of all our sin.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Proclamation of God's Holy Word

Prayer for Illumination

Celebrant Let us pray,

All **Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Holy Spirit's power, that as scripture is read and the Gospel announced, we might receive with open hearts whatever you speak to us this day. Amen.**

First Reading Jeremiah 2.4–13 [NRSV]

⁴Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? ⁶They did not say, 'Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?'

⁷I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. ⁸The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. ⁹Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children. ¹⁰Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. ¹¹Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. ¹²Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, ¹³for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 81.1, 10–16

- 1 Sing with joy to God our strength *
 and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.
- 10 I am the Lord your God,
 who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, *
 "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."
- 11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, *
 and Israel would not obey me.
- 12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, *
 to follow their own devices.
- 13 Oh, that my people would listen to me! *
 that Israel would walk in my ways!
- 14 I should soon subdue their enemies *
 and turn my hand against their foes.

15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, *
and their punishment would last for ever.

16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat *
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.

Reader Let us pray.

People **Father, forgive our foolish ways, and feed us always
with that living bread which is given for the life of the
world, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Second Reading Hebrews 13.1–8, 15–16 [NRSV]

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' ⁶So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

♪ **Gradual Hymn..... God of the Bible** (MV 28)

The Gospel Luke 14.1, 7–14 [NRSV]

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

All **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ⁸When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

* **Apostle's Creed**

Officiant 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

We hold the following ministries, communities, and people in prayer.

*During the Prayers of the People in our services of worship we bring before
God the needs of others and ourselves. Please consider offering these
requests to God in your own daily prayers through this week.*

Let us pray in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church,
the world, and one another. Our response to, "Lord in your mercy," is "hear
our prayer."

Gracious God, thank you for making us like Jesus! Joined to him, who
humbled himself for our sake, we too can be humble, yet not doormats.
Transformed by his Spirit, we can live in faith toward you and in fervent
love for others. Thank you! Make us more and more the living image of
your Son (*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 the leadership of *The Church of South India (United)* as well as the Edmonton Diocese's own companion Diocese of Buyé.
- in the United Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for our Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath and for all churches in our own Northern Spirit Region.
- in the Anglican Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for the Diocese of Qu'Appelle and the Rt. Rev. Helen Kennedy, their Bishop.
- in the Northern Spirit Region cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rev. Adam Hall, our Pastoral Relations Minister, and for the congregations and leadership of the Clairmont Pastoral Charge.
- in the Diocese of Edmonton cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rt. Rev. Stephen London, our Bishop as well as all young people in the diocese who are returning to school this week.
- in our local cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of our own Vegreville United Church.
- in our indigenous cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of all First Nations people of Treaty 6.

Fill your Church with obedient, humble servants whose faith is in Christ alone. Give it pastors, bishops, theologians and lay leaders who speak your truth in love. By your Holy Spirit, inspire compassionate deeds and holy lives among all who name Jesus Christ as Lord (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears and give comfort and strength to your persecuted servants throughout the world. By their humble witness, cause their enemies to repent and to turn to you, their only King, Lord and God (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the people of this congregation. Help us to remember that we always speak, act, and live in the presence of Christ our King. Let the way we treat everyone reflect his strong saving love (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless this land with justice, prosperity, concord, and integrity. Guide our leaders, and all who take counsel for the nations, so that they may always remember that they must give an account of their deliberations and deeds to you, the King of the Nations (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We are often fascinated by power, prestige, and popularity. Give us the grace to notice, and cherish, the humble and lowly who do your will. More than that, make us like Jesus, who is gentle and lowly of heart (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Those burdened with pain, sorrow, and adversity need the strength and healing that only you can give. We pray on their behalf, especially for 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, quiet their fears, heal their bodies, minds, and hearts, and renew their hope. Bless all who care for them. Give them refreshment and resources to continue their ministry of loving service. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for receiving all who have died trusting in you and quiet the souls of all who mourn (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Members of the community greet those around them with a sign of peace (handshakes or hugs) and words like "The peace of the Lord be always with you." This ancient tradition is an appropriate response to the peace that God gives to those who hear and do his word.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

*🎵 **Offertory Music**..... ***Deep in Our Hearts*** (MV 154)

* **Invitation to Generosity**

Celebrant We can help spread God's love by being kind and sharing with others. Maybe by giving our money, we can be a rainbow for someone else and that can help God's beautiful love shine for everyone to see.

* **Prayer over the Gifts**

Celebrant Merciful God,

All **receive all we offer you this day. Give us grace to love one another that your love may be made perfect in us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will, he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people. He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

***♪ The Sanctus**

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth of your glory are full.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth of your glory are full.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. ✕

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth of your glory are full.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

* ♪ **The Lord's Prayer** (VU 959)

Celebrant 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.**

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant Week by week we find the Lord's Table at the center of our worship. Some tables have "do this in remembrance of me" inscribed on them. Others are set with simple symbols of Jesus' body and blood, calling us to claim once more our identity as disciples (life-long learners) seeking to follow the humble Jewish rabbi who stood against the powers of oppression. Today there are no honoured seats, no need to "dress to impress," no bragging rights for any who comes. Rather, all are welcome to share in a tiny piece of bread and a thimble full of juice or wine, recognizing we all have an equal place at this symbolic feast. Come! Jesus, our host,

invites us all to participate in these gifts of God for the people of God.

All Thanks be to God.

The Communion

Important Health Notice: *For your health and the health of others, please use the hand sanitizer provided before going up for communion. Please note the bread is gluten free. There is also both consecrated wine and grape juice. You are also welcome to come forward for a blessing if you don't wish to receive communion.*

***♪ Communion Hymn Long Ago and Far Away (MV 195)**

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Almighty God,

All **you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May your holy food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* Doxology

All **Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.** *(Revelation 7.12[NRSV])*

Benediction

God Moments & Announcements

***♪ Recessional Hymn Dance With the Spirit (MV 156)**

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements: The 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 the 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 delivered to 5126-48 Avenue, Vegreville, AB T9C 1M7.

Our Upcoming Joint Ministry Schedule: Our worship services alternate between the Anglican and United worship styles at Vegreville United with occasional blended services:

- Sep. 7th **13th Sunday after Pentecost:** A United communion service at 10:00 AM with a potluck lunch to follow.
- Sep. 14th **14th Sunday after Pentecost:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Sep. 21st **15th Sunday after Pentecost:** A United prayer service at 10:00 AM with Val Rowe as the lay worship leader.
- Sep. 28th **16th Sunday after Pentecost:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Oct. 5th **World Communion Sunday:** A United communion service at 10:00 AM with a potluck lunch to follow.

- Oct. 12th **Harvest Thanksgiving:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Oct. 19th **19th Sunday after Pentecost:** A United prayer service at 10:00 AM with worship leader to be advised.
- Oct. 26th **20th Sunday after Pentecost:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.

Vegreville United Church Council Meeting — Wed., Sep. 10 at 2:00 PM in the Friendship Room.

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church Vestry Meeting — Mon., Sep. 8 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent out ahead of the meeting.

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. 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 Vegreville United Church office (780) 632-2338 to arrange and advise if there are any special needs!

Please contact Irene Sabados via email in the Vegreville United Church office, vegucc@telusplanet.net or by calling (780) 632-2338 for questions, bulletin submissions or to add a name to the prayers for the sick and deceased.