

Anglican & United Church Ministries

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



The Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

A Service of the Holy Communion
in the Anglican Church Tradition

Rector & Minister in Charge: The Rev. Laureta Blondin

Music provided by Companions on the Journey

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

W

elcome in the name of Christ to 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 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 ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ (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 Sų́łnē (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 Baptism of Our Lord

Musical Prelude

The Gathering

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

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. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with all diverse peoples who now call this land home.

* ♪ **Opening Hymn**..... *Sing of God Made Manifest* (CP 162)

* **Invocation**

Celebrant 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.**

* **Collect for Purity**

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* ♪ **Glory to God** ♪

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,

All **and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the ✠ Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*** Collect Prayer**

Celebrant Eternal God,

All **who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First ReadingIsaiah 42.1–9 [NRSV]

42Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to

idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 [NRSV]

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Leader Let us pray.

All: **God of mystery and power, open our eyes to the flame of your love, and open our ears to the thunder of your**

justice, that we may receive your gifts of blessing and peace, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second ReadingActs 10.34–43 [NRSV]

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

* ♪ **Gradual Hymn..... God Sends Us the Spirit** (CP 651)

* **The Gospel Matthew 3.13–17 [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 Matthew.

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

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ ¹⁵But Jesus answered him,

'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Celebrant This is the Gospel of Christ

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

Sermon The Rev. Laureta Blondin

Affirmation of Faith

Renewal of Our Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

All **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All **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.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

- All** **I will, with God's help.**
- Celebrant** Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- All** **I will, with God's help.**
- Celebrant** Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
- All** **I will, with God's help.**
- Celebrant** Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?
- All** **I will, with God's help.**
- Celebrant** Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- All** **I will, with God's help.**
- Celebrant** Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?
- All** **I will, with God's help.**
- Celebrant** Let us pray.
- Celebrant** God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever.
- People:** **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 that the light of Christ may shine upon the Church, the world, and all people according to their need. Our response to, "Lord in your mercy," is "hear our prayer."

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, we adore you! You reveal your heart to us in the Baptism of Jesus. By the Spirit's power, unite us to Christ, so that we may hear the Father say to each of us, "You are my

beloved son, my beloved daughter; in you I am well pleased." (*pause*).
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church throughout the world, especially remembering:

- in the Anglican Communion's world cycle of prayer, the people and leadership of *Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America* 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 *Living Skies* Region.
- in the Anglican Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for our Primate, the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, and for the people and leadership of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland, the Rt. Rev. John Watton, their Bishop.
- in the Northern Spirit Region cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rev. Adam Hall, our Pastoral Relations Minister, and for the people and leadership of Edgerton/Paradise Valley 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 Holy Trinity, Edmonton.
- in our local cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of North Pointe Community Church.
- in our indigenous cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of the Cold Lake First Nation.

Fill the Church with your Spirit. Bind it to your Son, your Word of truth. Adorn it with your goodness, holiness, and love. Make it fruitful in discipleship. Use it to lead many to the waters of Baptism, there to be made your beloved children (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be enthroned, O Lord, in the midst of this congregation. Overwhelm us with your majesty and mercy. Fill our worship with the beauty of holiness. Strengthen us to do your will. Conform us to the heart and mind of Jesus. Bestow on us your peace (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Do not quench the spirit or break the hearts of your persecuted servants, O Lord; nor let them be discouraged when they suffer on account of Christ (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless everyone who is baptized today, and all who remember and give thanks for their Baptism. Thank you for adopting us as brothers and sisters of your dear Son, and for filling us with the same Spirit that descended upon him. Let us glorify you in all we say and do (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Put your Spirit upon the leaders of this and every nation. Establish your justice through them. Give them the wisdom and the will to protect and provide for their people, especially those who are like "bruised reeds and faintly burning wicks." Make them prefer mercy over might; righteousness over renown; and integrity over influence (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We beseech you on behalf of everyone afflicted by suffering, especially those who crave our prayers, including those we name before you aloud or hold within the silence of our hearts (*long pause*). Along with those for whom no one prays, bring them out of the dungeon of suffering and the prison of darkness. Lead them into the brightness of your presence and the company of all who love them. 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.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: we praise and adore you for the mercy you have shown to all who have died to us but are alive eternally to you (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant to us, dear Father, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*** Confession and Absolution**

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

Celebrant Most merciful God,

People **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.**

Celebrant 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,

People **Amen.**

*** The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

*** ♪ Offertory Music..... O Healing River (CP 578)**

*** Prayer over the Gifts**

Celebrant God of life and freedom,

All **we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation new. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

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 Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord; you renew that mystery in bread and wine and nourish us, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the holy people who have served you in every age, 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

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave

it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore, Father, according to his command,

People **we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified ✠ by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

♪ **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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.**

Celebrant "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.

All **Give us this bread for ever.**

Celebrant "I am the vine, you are the branches."

All **May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.**

Celebrant Behold who you are, become what you receive.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Communion

An Open Table! *When we celebrate Holy Communion, we are all guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to all—including children—who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people, and not merely members of this congregation or denomination. This is a joyful feast for all the people of God.*

Important Health Notice: *For your health and the health of others, please use the hand sanitizer provided in the main aisle before receiving communion. Communion bread is gluten free. There is also both consecrated wine and grape juice.*

♪ **Communion Hymn*By the Well, a Thirsty Woman*** (MV 117)

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Gracious God,

All **lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ. We ask this in his name. Amen.**

Doxology

All **Glory to God whose power, 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.**

Benediction

God Moments & Announcements

♪ **Recessional Hymn..... *To God be the Glory*** (CP 371)

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* ♪ **Three-Fold Amen**(VU #967)

Thank you for worshipping with us! Fellowship time, with coffee and treats, follows our service in the back of the sanctuary. Please stay and join us.

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 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 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:

- Jan. 18th **2nd Sunday after Epiphany:** A United prayer service at 10:00 AM.
- Jan. 25th **3rd Sunday after Epiphany:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Feb. 1st **4th Sunday after Epiphany:** A United communion service at 10:00 AM followed by the AGM and potluck lunch.
- Feb. 8th **5th Sunday after Epiphany:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Feb. 15th **Transfiguration Sunday:** A blended communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Feb. 18th **Ash Wednesday Service:** A blended Evening communion service at 7:00 PM.

Year End AGM Committee Reports: All Council & Vestry committee reports are to be provided to the office no later than January 12th.so the year-end reports package can be assembled for the AGM.

Three Kings Chili Challenge: January 14th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Dine in only! \$10.00 admission gets you a taste of all the competing chilies and fixings + 3 ballots to vote for your favourites! All proceeds of this fundraiser will go to the churches' general operation accounts.

Anglican & United Church Ministries AGM: Sunday, February 1, 2026, immediately following the morning worship service. Please plan on staying for this, our own FIRST Anglican & United Church Ministries AGM. Your presence and input are invaluable!

Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday: February 17, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Dine in only! Admission by donation. All proceeds of this fundraiser will go to the churches' general operation accounts.

Monthly Bible Study: Bible Study will resume on the third Thursday of the month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM (Jan. 15th, Feb. 19th, Mar. 19th) in the St. Mary the Virgin Prayer Room. All are welcome.

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.

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