



Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43



July 19th, 2026

**A Sunday Prayer Service of the Word in the
United Church Tradition**

Rector & Minister in Charge: The Rev. Laureta Blondin

Music provided by Ellen Johnstone

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

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!"

My word shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it. *Isaiah 55.11*

Musical Prelude

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.

*** Lighting the Christ Candle**

One We light this candle to remind ourselves that the Living Christ is with us, around us, and through us.

All: **Christ calls us to be the light of the world. Amen.**

Call to Worship

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

All **And also with you.**

One We gather today to hear God's call,

All **May we always follow God's leading.**

One We gather to open ourselves to hear God's word.

All **May we listen with love.**

One We gather to open ourselves to God's blessing on our lives and on our hurting world.

All **May we respond to God in faithfulness and love.**

* **Prayer of Invocation**

One Let us pray,

All: **Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

* **♪ Opening Hymn *God is Here* (VU #389)**

Call to Confession

One God's mercy is everlasting, and God's truth endures to all generations. Let us confess our sins and turn again to the One who makes all things new.

Prayer of Confession

All **Holy God, you call us again and again to be your people and to live love in this world. We confess that there are many times when we ignore your call. We turn away when it is not convenient to follow you. We fail to understand our place in the world. We care for others with words and not with actions. O God, forgive us for turning away. Forgive us for our lack of understanding. Invite us, once again, to action as we seek to live your love and grace, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

One Hear the good news:
In Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven,
known, and free.

All **Thanks be to God, Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

One Now as we prepare to hear God's word, let us pray,

All **Lord, your word is like fire in the bones. As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, let them speak truth we cannot silence. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

First Reading..... Genesis 28.10–19a [NRSV]

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel;

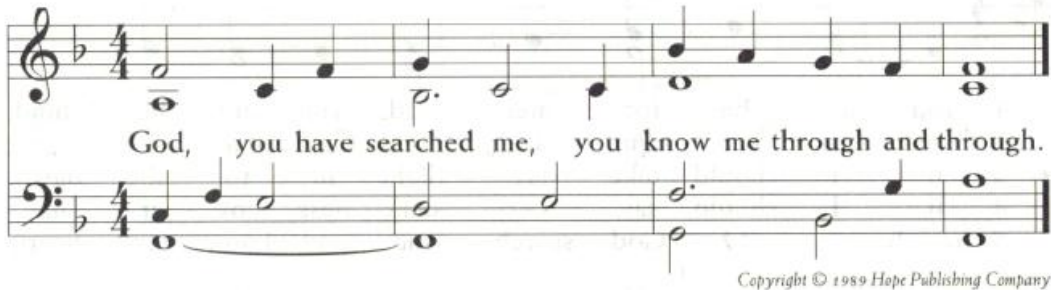
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139.1–11, 22–23

Refrain

Hal H. Hopson 1989



O God, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar *

**You discern my path and the places I rest;
you are familiar with all my ways.**

Before a word is on my tongue, you know it, O God, completely.
You guard me from behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me. *

**It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery,
I cannot fathom it. (Refrain)**

Where can I escape from your spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence? *

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there,
if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.**

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me and my day be turned to night", *
**even darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as day,
for darkness is as light to you. (Refrain)**

Search me, O God, and know my heart; *
test me and I know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error *
and guide me in the everlasting way. (Refrain)

Second ReadingRomans 8.12–25 [NRSV]

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’

¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

All **Thanks be to God.**

♪ **Gradual HymnIn Christ There is No East or West** (VU #606)

* **The GospelMatthew 13.24–30, 36–43 [NRSV]**

One Hear now the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

²⁴He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" '

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' ³⁷He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

One This is the Gospel of our risen Lord.
All **Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

🎵 **Post Sermon Hymn** ***For the Healing of the Nations*** (VU #678)

Modern Affirmation of Faith

One Let us declare our communal Affirmation of Faith.

All **We are not alone; we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God,
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us
and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.**

We are called to be the Church:

**To celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

A Prayer for Mission and Stewardship

All Lord, we pray for our mission work here at Anglican & United Church Ministries as we continue to reach out to connect with our community friends and neighbours. We give thanks for the success of our recent efforts through our spring tea, rummage sale and hot dog barbeques. We look forward to continuing to bring our community together even as we help to support our beloved church. Amen.

*** The Peace**

One The peace of our Lord be with you.

All **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.

Invitation to Generosity

One This world is not equal. We do not all have access to the same wealth, the same opportunities, the same caring relationships. There are always people with more, always people with less. Whether the field of your life feels full of weeds or full of wheat, you are invited to breathe in gratitude and share with our faith community. Let us give generously.

* ♪ **Offertory Hymn..... *God, Whose Farm Is All Creation*** (VU #300)

* **Prayer of Dedication over the Gifts**

One Let us pray.

All **Spirit of Life, giver of every perfect gift. We join together with hearts full of gratitude and eyes open to see the places your abundance shows up in our lives. Bless these offerings and those given outside this time of worship. May our contributions both here and in every part of our lives—how we share our time, our skills and our money—work towards a world of justice and belonging. We pray that it be so. Through the ministries of this community of faith and through our individual choices, may we lay foundations for the kingdom. In Jesus' name. 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 for the Church, the world, all people and one another. Our response to, Lord in your mercy," is "hear our prayer."

Holy Father, thank you for stating what we ignore or deny: we're all a weedy field! Thank you for giving us Jesus' words, so we can withstand a "cancel culture" that seeks to uproot and destroy. Thank you for his patient tending, that alone can "cancel" our sins and heal us. Thank

you for your promise to gather us, from every race, tribe, and nation, as your treasured, holy, precious, and redeemed people (*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 *Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan* 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 *First Dawn Eastern Edge Region*.
- in the Anglican Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for our Primate, the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, Archbishop and for the people and leadership of the *Diocese of the Arctic*, and the Rt. Rev. Alexander Pryor, their Bishop as well as the Rt. Rev. Annie Ittoshat, the Rt. Rev. Ann Martha Keenainak, the Rt. Rev. Jared Osborn, their Suffragan Bishops.
- 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 *Moose Hill 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. John, Sedgewick*.
- in our local cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of the *Two Hills United Church*.
- in our indigenous cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of the *Métis Nation of Alberta*.

You are the first and the last; beside you there is no god. Make your Church faithful and persistent in telling the world that in Jesus, crucified and raised from the dead for the forgiveness of sins unto eternal life, you have revealed to us your very heart (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come to the aid of all who suffer scorn and violence because they name a crucified Jewish carpenter as the one, true, and only God. Grant that they bear faithful witness to that precious truth (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We confess that our congregation is sown with weeds as well as wheat. Forgive us. Deal mercifully with us. By the grace of your Spirit, help us to bear one another's faults with patience and gentleness. Remind us that you alone will make us pure, holy, and good, by conforming us to your dear Son (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies – especially those who hate us because of our faith in Jesus. We pray for all who deny and despise him. We pray for all who do not know him, or who only know a shriveled, distorted image of him. Soften their hearts; enlighten their minds; and fill them with your Spirit, so they may repent and believe in the Good News (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We know there are no perfect rulers, nations, or programs – only sinful people in a fallen and death-shadowed world. Therefore, we groan in travail, pleading that you would free us from bondage and futility. We cry out for redemption and righteousness; for healing and wholeness; and for your Sabbath rest, your Shalom. Until then, make us humble, gentle, and wise; and heal the evil we have caused (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son's parable counseled letting weeds and wheat grow together. Yet too often, we *must* stop the spread of deadly weeds like violence, injustice, and hatred. Therefore, we plead on behalf of those in the military, police, security, intelligence, and first response. Give them wisdom, integrity, and honour, so that by their labors, those they serve may have a measure of justice and safety (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sickness, sorrow, and adversity take root in every life. We cannot uproot them all, yet we know you desire abundant life for your servants. And so, we are bold to pray for everyone who suffers, 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, heal and encourage them. In your good time, complete in them and in us all, the full and perfect healing that you have promised in Christ Jesus. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** We joyfully pray for Savannah Toma and Juan Unger who, God willing, will be married in Hairy Hill on July 25th (*pause*). 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.**

We thank you, heavenly Father, for those who have gone before us and are at rest in you. Hold them in the palm of your hand and wipe away the tears of all who mourn. (*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.**

* ♪ **The Lord's Prayer** (VU 959)

One Now we turn to you now as a mother, praying the words that Jesus taught us to pray, singing:

**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.

*** The Benediction**

God Moments & Announcements

*** ♪ Recessional Hymn *I Am a Child of God* (MV #157)**

*** The Dismissal**

One Go in the name of God who creates you,
In the name of Christ who redeems you, and
In the name of the Holy Spirit who sustains you now and always.

All Thanks be to God!

*** ♪ Three-Fold Amen (VU #967)**

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:

- July 26th **9th Sunday after Pentecost:** A communion service in the Anglican Church tradition.
- Aug. 2nd **10th Sunday after Pentecost:** A communion service in the United Church tradition.
- Aug. 9th **11th Sunday after Pentecost:** A communion service in the Anglican Church tradition.
- Aug. 16th **12th Sunday after Pentecost:** A worship service in the United Church tradition.
- Aug. 23rd **13th Sunday after Pentecost:** A worship service in the Anglican Church tradition.
- 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.



Hot Dog & Smokies BBQ Dates: Friday, July 31st, 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 drink 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.

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!

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.

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>