

Anglican & United Church Ministries

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



**September 21st, 2025 –
A Sunday Prayer Service of the Word in the
United Church Tradition**

**Worship Leader: Val Rowe
Music provided by Ellen Johnstone**

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

Welcome in the name of Christ to Vegreville United Church 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 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!"

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.
2 Corinthians 8.9

Musical Prelude

Words of Welcome

The Gathering

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.

* Lighting the Christ Candle

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

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

* Call to Worship

Celebrant Praise the name of the Lord.

People **Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

Celebrant From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise God.

People **We will bless God's holy name now and evermore.**

Celebrant The glory of the Lord is high above the heavens, but God raises up the poor and needy on the earth.

People **So we will sing God's praise.**

* Gathering Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,

All: **God our Creator, You sustain your creation as the source of life for every precious thing. You have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve, and so we offer you our love and loyalty, for without you, we would not be. Receive our worship this day, O God. Speak to us in the sounds and silence of this hour, and amaze us with your promise of new life revealed in Jesus Christ, and your power at work in us and among us through the Spirit. Amen.**

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

Prayer for Transformation

Celebrant: Jesus taught us to care for others at least as much as we care for ourselves. Yet, we often focus more on our own desires than the needs of others. Let us turn to God in prayer.

All: **Generous God, you have enriched us with life worth living, but we confess we often squander your good gifts. We have wasted our time and energy but held tightly to things we think we need. Forgive our foolish priorities and those times we overlooked the needs of others. Inspire us to live more generously, trusting your goodness to sustain us always. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Celebrant Friends in Christ, while it is true that we have squandered God's good gifts, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. Let us trust the mercy of God, and may you be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Celebrant As we prepare to hear God's word, let us pray,

All **Holy God, send us your Spirit to give us a fresh understanding of the Scriptures this day. Challenge us and change our lives as we encounter your wisdom and truth, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.**

First Reading.....Jeremiah 8.18—9.1 [NRSV]

¹⁸My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. ¹⁹Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: 'Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?' ('Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?') ²⁰The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.' ²¹For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. ²²Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

⁹O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 79.1–9

Refrain

Geistliche Volkslieder 1850
harm. Paul Bunjes 1982

Unison Fm Bbm Eb Ab Db C Fm

Help us, God of our sal-va-tion, for the glo-ry of your name.

O God, the nations have entered your domain,
defiled your holy temple and laid Jerusalem in ruins. *

**They have left your servants' bodies for scavenging birds,
the flesh of your faithful ones for wild beasts.
Their blood was shed like water around Jerusalem,
with none to bury them.**

We have become the taunt of our neighbours,
mocked and scorned by those around us. *

**How long, O God? Will you be angry forever?
Will your jealous wrath burn like fire? (*Refrain*)**

Pour out your rage on the nations that do not acknowledge you,
on the realms that will not call on your name; *

for they have devoured Jacob and desolated Israel's home.

Do not hold the sins of past generations against us. *

**let your compassion come swiftly to meet us,
for we are sunk very low.**

Help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.

**Deliver us and forgive our sin,
for the honour of your name (*Refrain*)**

Second Reading1 Timothy 2.1–7 [NRSV]

²First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

All Thanks be to God.

♪ **Gradual Hymn *Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind*** (VU #608)

* **The Gospel Luke 16.1–13** [NRSV]

Celebrant Hear now the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

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

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." ³Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" ⁶He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." ⁷Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the

other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'

Celebrant This is the gospel of our risen Lord.

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

Sermon

Modern Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant 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 **Almighty God, you have entrusted to us the riches of your good creation: teach us to be wise and faithful stewards, not serving wealth, but serving you above all; that by your Spirit we may use what we have to nurture life, seek justice, and care for the earth, until all creation is reconciled in Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

* The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be 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.

Invitation to Generosity

Celebrant God's vision is always one of generosity and abundance for all of creation. Let us rejoice that God has given us the opportunity to also be generous! So now let us worship God by our acts of generosity. As we offer our gifts, we choose life and compassion over greed and death.

* ♪ **Offertory Hymn.....*For Beauty of Prairies*** (VU #303)

* Prayer of Dedication over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **O God, we offer these gifts to you. Bless them and use them to heal and reshape the world you love with the Good News that we now joyfully celebrate in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 to the God of all creation, who gives to his people the earth in trust, not as a possession. Our response to, Lord in your mercy," is "hear our prayer."

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty and wonder of the world you have made — for oceans and rivers, hills and forests, skies full of stars and the breath of morning (*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 South Sudan* as well as the Edmonton Diocese's own companion Diocese of Buyé in Burundi, Africa.
- in the United Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, our Moderator and the Prairie to Pines Region.
- in the Anglican Church of Canada cycle of prayer, we pray for our Primate, the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, and for the Diocese of Saskatchewan and the Rt. Rev. Richard Reed, their Bishop; as well as the Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett, Bishop of Mississippi.
- in the Northern Spirit Region cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rev. Adam Hall, our Pastoral Relations Minister, and for the people, leadership of the Grace Pastoral Charge, Edmonton.
- in the Diocese of Edmonton cycle of prayer, we pray for the Rt. Rev. Stephen London, our Bishop and all Sunday School teachers in the diocese.
- in our wider ecumenical cycles of prayer, we pray for all church led ecology programs started in this Season of Creation.
- in our local cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of Salem United Church.
- in our indigenous cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and the leadership of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.

May your Church live as faithful stewards of the world you have entrusted to our care. Teach us to use our influence wisely, not to accumulate, but to heal and to share. Give courage to churches around the world as they witness to your kingdom in how they live, spend, and speak (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, as we celebrate this Season of Creation, draw this congregation deeper into the mystery of your love that holds all things together. Help us to live not as owners, but as guests. Not as masters, but servants and fellow travellers. That we may serve you, not wealth,

and leave behind not destruction, but blessing (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, we pray for those in positions of power in our economy, our industries, and our communities. Grant wisdom to those making decisions about energy, land, water, and food. Shape public policy in ways that honour your creation and protect the vulnerable. Where there is waste, bring accountability. Where there is inertia, stir imagination. Where there is harm, lead the way to healing (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we remember all who are already paying the price of environmental breakdown — communities losing homes to rising seas or raging wildfires, families facing drought and failed harvests, species under threat, ecosystems in collapse. We ask for justice, not only in words, but in choices that the wealth of your earth would no longer be used at the cost of its life. Turn our hearts from indifference and awaken in us a longing for restoration (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we give thanks for those who model faithful stewardship - for scientists, campaigners, farmers, teachers, and children whose lives point to better ways of living. Bless their efforts and protect their hope. Give each of us the will to begin with what we have - our homes, our habits, our prayers, our voices. Help us to see the connections between faith and finance, between daily choices and eternal values (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we ask for your healing hand for all who suffer, especially 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, bless all who suffer with your goodness and mercy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, thank you for cherishing all who have died trusting in you and heal the hearts of those who grieve (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

* **♪ The Lord’s Prayer**(VU 959)

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
let us 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.**

* **Benediction**

* **♪ Recessional Hymn*****Touch the Earth Lightly*** (VU #307)

* **The Dismissal**

Celebrant In work or in worship,
All **God is with us.**

Celebrant Gathered or scattered,
All **God is with us.**

Celebrant Now and always,
All **God is with us.**

Celebrant Then go forth in peace to love and serve our Lord.
All **Thanks be to God!**

* **♪ 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 our worship service.

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. 28th **16th Sunday after Pentecost:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM with the Rev. Hugh Matheson presiding and the Rev. Laureta Blondin preaching.
- Oct. 5th **World Communion Sunday:** A United communion service at 10:00 AM with Rev. Adam Hall presiding. 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.

- Nov. 2nd **All Saints Sunday:** A blended communion service at 10:00 AM with a potluck lunch to follow.
- Nov. 9th **22nd Sunday after Pentecost:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Nov. 16th **23rd Sunday after Pentecost:** A United communion service at 10:00 AM with worship leader to be advised.
- Nov. 23rd **The Reign of Christ Sunday:** A blended communion service at 10:00 AM
- Nov. 30th **First Sunday of Advent:** A blended communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Dec. 7th **Second Sunday of Advent:** A United communion service at 10:00 AM with a potluck lunch to follow.
- Dec. 14th **Third Sunday of Advent:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Dec. 21st **Fourth Sunday of Advent:** A United communion service at 10:00 AM with worship leader to be advised.
- Dec. 24th **A Family Christmas Eve:** A blended communion service at 7:00 PM
- Dec. 25th **Christmas Day:** A blended communion service at 10:00 AM.
- Dec. 28th **First Sunday After Christmas:** An Anglican communion service at 10:00 AM.

Fall Rummage Sale: Friday, October 3rd (4:00 PM – 7:00 PM) and Saturday, October 4th (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM). If you have items you would like to donate, Rev. Laureta will be at St. Mary's Church on Tuesday, September 23rd 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM or Saturday, September 27th from 9:00 AM - Noon. You can also bring items with you next Sunday when you come to worship service at the Vegreville United Church. Anyone needing extra assistance to get items to the church, please call Irene in the church office to make arrangements (780-632-2338).

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.

Mission & Service Story: Framed by Creation

In some parts of the world, children are returning to school. They are sharpening pencils, packing backpacks, and stepping into another year of possibility. But in communities across the globe, education can look very different.

Our global partners understand that education is more than just access to classrooms or books. It's a foundation for hope, dignity, and lasting change. Because they are rooted in their communities, Mission and Service partners can respond directly to local needs, creating educational opportunities that are culturally relevant, spiritually meaningful, and deeply empowering.

Picture a kindergarten class in a refugee camp where children are not only learning letters and numbers but reclaiming a sense of safety and possibility. Imagine a young adult encountering their faith in a new way, guided by mentors and peers who offer space for honest exploration and spiritual growth. Think of parents gathered in workshops tailored to their realities, where they share stories, strengthen leadership skills, and envision a future grounded in compassion and justice. Envision elders and youth learning together, reviving ancestral languages and knowledge long threatened by colonization and displacement.

These aren't just moments of learning; they are acts of restoration, resilience, and renewal. And they are possible [because of you](#).

<https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/mission-and-service>

SEASON OF CREATION 2025 PRAYER

PEACE WITH CREATION

Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life
and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.
We confess how estranged we have become—
from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves.
We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses
have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and with the Earth.
Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate,
oceans and rivers are polluted.
Thriving communities have become places of suffering,
and the earth cries out.

Beloved Christ,
who spoke “Shalom” to frightened hearts,
stir us to compassionate action.
Inspire us to work for the end of conflict,
and for the full restoration of broken relationships—
with you, with the ecumenical community,
with the human family, and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace,
through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity
with the woundedness of others,
of creation, and of the world.
Through your resurrection, make us people of hope—
with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares
and tears transformed into joy.
May we come together as one family,
to labour for your peace—a shalom where all your people
may dwell in safety, and rest in quiet places. Amen.

[season-of-creation-prayer-2025.pdf](#)